

### Welcome to the 2019 edition of the Cambridge Eye Trust Newsletter.

As a Cambridge Charity we are dedicated to helping save sight. In this edition we are highlighting research, innovation, educational and patient best care initiatives that the Trust is supporting in Cambridge, East Anglia and internationally.

We would like to share with you how donations to our Charity really are making a difference now and in the future to eye patients and their families!

### Thank you all round – CET says good bye (for now) and thank you to Professor Keith Martin as he moves to the University of Melbourne, Australia



It is with regret, but best wishes, that Cambridge Eye Trust bids goodbye to a long standing, active supporter of the Trust and Cambridge's current Professor of Ophthalmology. Professor Keith Martin takes up the prestigious position of Managing Director of the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) and Ringland Anderson Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Melbourne at the beginning of 2019.

Some of you will be aware of some of Professor Keith Martin's accomplishments. He is known as one of the top eye researchers in the world of ophthalmology and for introducing pioneering treatment programmes into 3<sup>rd</sup> world and war-torn countries. For many patients though he is quite simply the exceptionally gifted, mild mannered, trusted doctor they visited at Addenbrooke's. We know him as a friend, major contributor to the development of novel scientific topics of the Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium and a highly valued 'sounding board' to the Cambridge Eye Trust when reviewing funding proposals.

*Continued on page 2*

*"The Cambridge Eye Trust's support has allowed me to begin new projects that would not otherwise have been possible, as well as bridging gaps to facilitate other ongoing research work." Prof Keith Martin*

### Other features:

- Awards for Addenbrooke's Ophthalmology teams
- Special feature on Addenbrooke's Vitreoretinal Services
- Insight: Leber's Hereditary Ophthalmic Neuropathy Society
- Launch of the Cambridge Eye Research Centre



**Our Golden Anniversary in 2020**

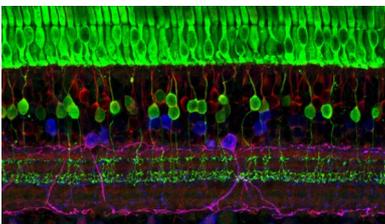
**50 YEARS**

**Helping to save sight**

**Continued: Thank you all round – CET says good bye (for now) and thank you to Professor Keith Martin as he moves to the University of Melbourne, Australia**

The Professor of Ophthalmology at Cambridge University Chair was originated in 2009 by the Trust to realise one of its founding principles – to support best research in Cambridge, to save sight. Each year through the Dickinson Fellowship, the Trust pledges a significant amount to the Professor of Ophthalmology’s Department. The money is solely to be used to help fund research projects into debilitating eye conditions. As Professor Martin says “The Cambridge Eye Trust’s support has allowed me to begin new projects that would not otherwise have been possible, as well as bridging gaps to facilitate other ongoing research work.”

During his Cambridge Professorship role Keith has achieved a huge amount. Apart from his research successes, his determination to uncover the secrets of many optical disease has been inspiring. The John van Geest Centre for Brain Repair in Cambridge is now filled with a group of brilliant scientific minds conducting ground-breaking work in

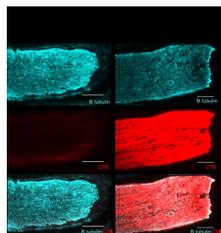


*Layers of nerve cells in the retina*

the area of degenerative optical diseases, including gene therapy. Research projects which will continue to be assisted by CET donations include many exciting new investigations into how to give patients their sight back.

Studies into the regeneration of nerve pathways after damage by disease. For example in Glaucoma which involves death of retinal ganglion cells (RGCs): nerves that carry information from the eye to the brain.

Research into gene therapy to alleviate the loss of retinal ganglion cell (RGC) after optic nerve injury; a major cause of blindness.



*Axonal transport of cholera toxin B (CTB)*

Assessing eye functional changes that can affect the ability to see. The results will provide insights into timings and windows for therapeutic intervention that will lead to successful treatments in eye conditions, and potentially in other neurological disorders like Alzheimer’s. If you are interested in find out more about the types of research being undertaken please visit: [www.brc.cam.ac.uk](http://www.brc.cam.ac.uk).

We are proud to say that the good works started by Professor Martin will carry on; the Cambridge Eye Trust is committed to continuing to help fund eye research at the University of Cambridge under the steer of the next Professor of Ophthalmology. Also to say, while Professor Martin may be in residence on the other side of the world, it will not be the last time Cambridge and Addenbrooke’s

*“Further development of our gene therapy for glaucoma project will be a major focus over the next year, in addition to our ongoing work to regenerate the optic nerve. We are now trying to get our gene therapy treatment through to the clinical trial stage, aiming to be ‘first in man’ with a gene therapy for glaucoma.”*  
Prof Keith Martin

see him again. One of his goals is to strengthen links between Melbourne and Addenbrooke’s (for example Joint Studentships) and he has accepted an honorary position as Senior Fellow at Cambridge.



Cambridge Eye Trust is in no doubt that Cambridge will continue to be viewed as a centre of excellence in eye care. Keith, thank you for very positively ‘raising the bar’ for the new Professor of Ophthalmology.

## Another prestigious award for Addenbrooke's Consultant Mr Patrick Yu Wai Man

Congratulations to Patrick Yu Wai Man who has been awarded a prestigious award for his groundbreaking research on genetic eye diseases by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) at this year's annual meeting in Vancouver. "I am delighted to be the recipient of the 2019 ARVO-Alcon Clinician Scientist Award for the work that we are doing in the area of inherited optic neuropathies, in particular gene therapy for Leber hereditary optic neuropathy (LHON). Inherited optic neuropathies represent an important cause of blindness in both children and young adults and current treatment options remain limited. I am hopeful

that we will soon be able to stabilize or even improve vision for affected individuals by capitalizing on the major advances that we have made in drug development and the application of stem cells and gene therapy to the eye." You can learn more about Patrick's research on his University webpage .



[www.neuroscience.cam.ac.uk/directory/profile.php?py237](http://www.neuroscience.cam.ac.uk/directory/profile.php?py237).

## A new research post created to study the pathology of posterior vitreous detachment

A new 3year PhD research project with the Department of Pathology will start in 2019. The objective to research gene expression of patients with posterior vitreous detachment.

Posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) is a relatively common benign event in older individuals, but is not an inevitable consequence of aging. PVD can also be a precursor to more serious conditions, such as retinal detachment, retinal tears, macular pucker and macular holes, but the factors differentiating benign from pathological PVD are poorly understood.

Differing cellular changes in the posterior hyaloid membrane (PHM) are observed in patients with physiological (uncomplicated) posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) when compared with pathological PVD (those associated with retinal tears, detachment or macular hole). Little is known about changes in gene expression that may underlie or act as a precursor to PVD. The project will involve collection of samples from both healthy and pathologically abnormal tissue, isolation of RNA, and comparison of the transcriptome between normal and pathological specimens.



## A different way of supporting us: PayPal Giving Fund and eBay for Charity

eBay for Charity is an easy way for buyers on eBay.co.uk to support their favourite charities. Buyers can shop for items knowing they're supporting a good cause. eBay for Charity donations are administered by PayPal Giving Fund. PayPal Giving Fund distributes donations and Gift Aid to donors' chosen charities, which receive 100% of the funds raised. Visit this site to find out more about how you can support us:

[www.charity.ebay.com](http://www.charity.ebay.com) or click the Donation Account menu button in your eBay account.



## New website for Vitreoretinal Services at Addenbrooke's

A new website has been launched for the Vitreoretinal Service at Addenbrooke's. The website highlights the important research being undertaken by the group as well as offering patient information.

The Vitreoretinal Service at Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge was established in 1967 with the appointment of Mr JD Scott FRCO and offers a 7 day a week, 365 day a year service for the emergency management of all aspects of retinal and vitreous disorders, especially retinal detachment, trauma, diabetic eye disease, all aspects of macular surgery (including macular hole) and retinal detachment in children especially the Stickler Syndrome. Our Service carries out approximately 800 - 1000 vitreoretinal operations per year and sees approximately 8,000 - 10,000 outpatients per year for clinical assessment.

Since 1993 we have established a research laboratory investigating the causes of retinal detachment including molecular genetic and familial risk factors and have a particular interest in both prevention and retinal detachment repair. Visit: [www.vitreoretinalservice.org](http://www.vitreoretinalservice.org).



## The Cambridge Eye Research Centre Launch Event

The Cambridge Eye Research Centre (CERC) event held on the 22 January 2019 was an entertaining evening. An opportunity for more than 100 patients and dignitaries to be demonstrated some the latest developments in eye care. Delegates heard about the role of Artificial Intelligence in Ophthalmology. There had been several new consultant appointments over the previous year and the research support team had grown, this was a chance to meet the clinical and research teams.

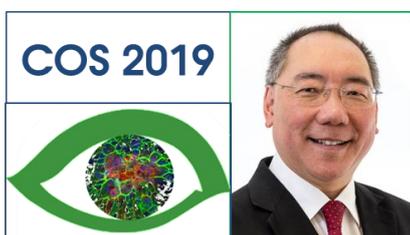
The launch event for the CERC was an ideal time for Addenbrooke's to showcase its national and international research. Dignitaries who have an interest in eye research and supporters of collaboration across areas of healthcare allied to Ophthalmology attend; speakers include Dame Mary Archer (Vice-President of Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust & Patron of Cam Sight) and Michele Acton (Chief Executive Officer of Fight for Sight).

## 48th Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium — “quality, inspirational, fantastic”

Last September St John's College, Cambridge hosted this highly prestigious meeting which is supported by CET. The 2-day meeting entitled “The Thyroid and the Eye” was Chaired by Profs Tim Sullivan (Australia) and Marian Ludgate (UK). The meeting covered scientific discovery to clinical breakthroughs. Presenters from around the world, including a veterinary ophthalmologist discussed the nuances of this debilitating condition. They offered delegates an opportunity to greater understand the advances taking place in research and treatment of Thyroid Eye Disease . The CET provided 2 bursaries to young doctors who would otherwise not have been able to enjoy this unique meeting.



COS 2018 Chairs



Prof (Sir) Peng Khaw

The 49th Symposium scientifically organised by Mr Martin Snead, Cambridge, UK will take place in September 2019.

The Symposium is entitled **'Fibrosis and the Eye'** The Symposium Chair will be Prof (Sir) Peng Khaw, London, UK. We look forward to another fascinating and highly sociable event. Visit: [www.cambridge-symposium.org](http://www.cambridge-symposium.org)

## Cambridge Eye Research Centre (CERC): moving from strength to strength



Following the official launch of CERC on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, it seems timely to set out some of the developments within CERC.

The Department of Ophthalmology at Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) hosts some of the World's leading clinician-scientists with expertise in a variety of subspecialty research areas of Ophthalmology that includes glaucoma, corneal, retinal, neuro-ophthalmology, mitochondrial diseases, uveitis, ophthalmic epidemiology and paediatric ophthalmology.

We are building capacity for a multitude of NIHR (National Institute for Health Research, the 'research arm of the NHS') portfolio commercial and non-commercial clinical trials that are currently underway or in set-up, and many more that are being offered to CUH.

With new research clinic space and some funding for research team nursing, optometrist and administrative posts for the coming year from the Clinical Research Network, we can take on new research studies led by our consultants. Our objectives are to:

- To establish CERC as a World-class clinical research facility with national and overseas research collaboration in and outside of the field of Ophthalmology

- To obtain financial, staffing and infrastructural support on a recurring annual basis with a rapid growth in the next five years.
- To integrate NIHR portfolio study research into clinical care at CUH and at partnering institutions, and encourage more nurse, optometrist and orthoptist participation.
- To create a single point of access to Ophthalmology research infrastructure for non-Ophthalmology-led and Ophthalmology studies at different stages of pre-approval, such that the newly created research clinics are utilised effectively and are financially sustainable.
- To encourage a culture of integrated research among trainee Ophthalmology residents at CUH by promoting and growing the current Ophthalmology Trainee Research Network that can interact with other UK and overseas centres.
- To actively seek non-commercial and commercial research partnerships and grow CERC to match this demand.

Professor Bourne, who directs CERC said: *"The launch of the research centre is another exciting development and means we can further extend our cutting-edge work for the benefit of thousands of patients from this region and further afield."*



Rupert Bourne

## Perhaps remember us in your Will

Making a Will is an important part of planning for the future. After you have provided for loved ones, you may then consider including Cambridge Eye Trust as a beneficiary.

Many local people support Cambridge Eye Trust through legacies. Legacies, large and small, have contributed significantly towards our aim to save sight. By leaving a legacy, your gift enables us to fund research into eye disease and offer eye clinics the opportunity to purchase new state-of-the-art equipment.

It is one way of making a positive difference to so many future generations.



## Thyroid Eye Service: international conferences and international prize!

2019-20 has proven to be the year of the Thyroid – at least in Cambridge. In September the annual ophthalmological symposium was organised for the first time by Ms Rachna Murthy and the last time by Prof Keith Martin to focus on Thyroid Eye disease. Profs Tim Sullivan and Marian Ludgate chaired the meeting which saw attendees from all corners of the globe from Australia, to Singapore, to California. Rachna was invited to speak about her research on biomarkers and how they are affected by smoking and endocrine drives. This knowledge has helped her local multi-disciplinary team reduce the rate of surgical decompressions in Cambridge 7-fold compared to the published national average. This led to an invitation for her to speak on “what really works” at the 5<sup>th</sup> biennial International Thyroid Eye Disease meeting in Singapore. The meeting attracted over 400 international delegates



*Ms Rachna Murthy  
presenting in Singapore*

including the most well-known names in the field including Profs Ley Leng Seah, Louise Mawn, Gillian Adams, Terry Smith, Ray Douglas, Geoff Rose, Bob Goldberg, Peter Dolman, Maarten Mourits, Luigi Bartalena, Marius Stan, as well as Messieurs Saurabh Jain, Jimmy Uddin and David Verity to mention but a few. As a pleasant surprise, Ms Murthy’s fellow, Jonathan Roos, – who recently completed his training in the East of England – won the conference’s best presentation prize. This was for his presentation of a new imaging approach for TED pioneered in Cambridge. It is hoped that this new way of using MRI technology can help to better understand and measure the disease, which will help treatment.



*Dr Jonathan Roos  
receiving his prize from*

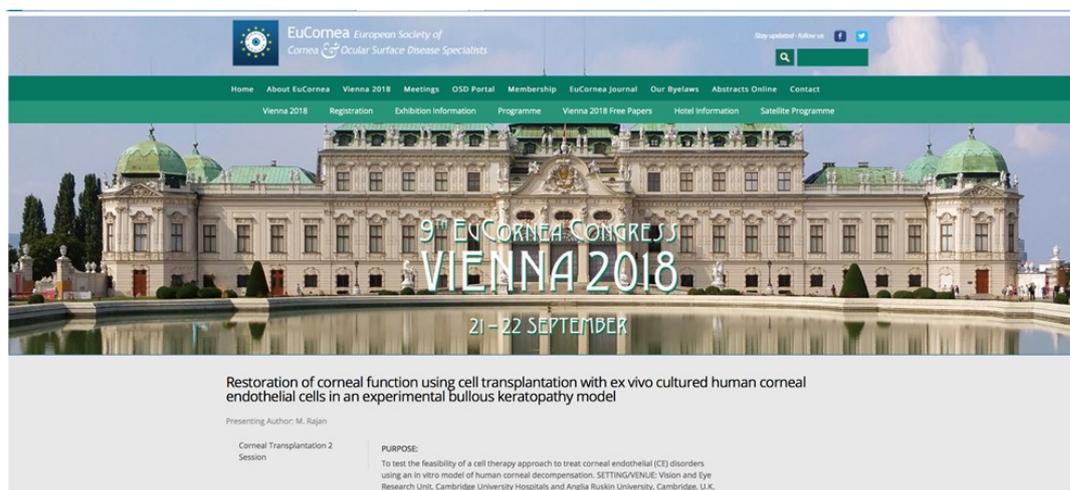
More information about Thyroid Eye Disease can be found at the British Thyroid Eye Disease website: [www.btf-thyroid.org](http://www.btf-thyroid.org).

## Corneal Research Team— Best Scientific Paper Award

The Corneal Research Team led by Madhavan Rajan at the Anglia Ruskin University and Cambridge University Hospital were awarded the Best Scientific Paper Award at the EuCORNEA International meeting held in Vienna on the 21 – 22 September 2018. Mr Rajan delivered the results of a novel treatment strategy to cure corneal blindness with the aid of cultured corneal endothelial cells in a controlled laboratory environment.



*Madhavan Rajan*



The screenshot shows the website for the 9th EuCORNEA Congress Vienna 2018. The header includes the EuCORNEA logo and navigation links. The main banner features a photograph of the Vienna Congress building with the text "9<sup>th</sup> EU CORNEA CONGRESS VIENNA 2018 21 - 22 SEPTEMBER". Below the banner, there is a section for a presentation abstract titled "Restoration of corneal function using cell transplantation with ex vivo cultured human corneal endothelial cells in an experimental bullous keratopathy model". The abstract lists the presenting author as M. Rajan and includes a purpose statement: "To test the feasibility of a cell therapy approach to treat corneal endothelial (CE) disorders using an in vitro model of human corneal decompensation. SETTING/VENUE: Vision and Eye Research Unit, Cambridge University Hospitals and Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, U.K."

## Peter Watson International Scholarship 2019 – CET partners with AstraZeneca to inspire the next generation of vision researchers



Following the success of the inaugural Peter Watson International Scholarship in 2018, the Cambridge Eye Trust has partnered with AstraZeneca for PWIS 2019 to sponsor another two winning secondary school students to visit the National Eye Institute in the United States, the largest vision research institute in the world. They will receive one to one mentorship with leading vision scientists and take part in a specially designed week long programme of events which includes a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a behind-the-scenes visit to the US AstraZeneca site.



The scholarship is a national competitive award and 10 shortlisted students will be invited to present their self-directed research projects at the Prize Giving Day in June, at Queens College Cambridge. The esteemed judging panel includes Ms Tasneem Khatib, Founder of PWIS, Mr Nicholas Sarkies, Chairman of CET, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Chairman of Cancer Research UK and former Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University and Mr Patrick Yu Wai Man, Senior lecturer at Cambridge University. The scholarship will be presented by Mr Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge. Student accounts, reports from the scholarship and dates for 2020 can be found at [www.pwis.org.uk](http://www.pwis.org.uk).



## Payroll Giving: A tax efficient way to donate



Payroll Giving offers an easy way to donate to the Cambridge Eye Trust. Payroll Giving is a flexible scheme which allows anyone who receives their pay through payroll to give regularly and on a tax free basis to the charities and good causes of their choice. Payroll Giving donations are deducted before tax so for every £1.00 that you give it will only cost you 80p, and if you're a higher rate tax payer it will only cost you 60p. A regular donation is taken directly from your pay. Its cheaper because its tax free - for example, a donation of £5 per month costs the basic rate tax payer £4.00 (the taxman pays the rest!). Higher rate taxpayers- the only way to pass on your 40% or 45% tax to charities. Only 28% can be recouped via other ways of giving. Find out more at: [www.payrollgiving.co.uk](http://www.payrollgiving.co.uk).

## New Appointment: John Sharp joins as Consultant Ophthalmologist

John Sharp recently joined us as a consultant in cornea as well as lead consultant for the eye emergency clinic. He has come from fellowship training at Moorfields Eye Hospital, King's College Hospital in London, and Leicester. He has also spent three months at L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, an international centre of excellence for corneal ophthalmology. He studied severe corneal infections as well as learning how to perform cataract surgery that is appropriate for a developing world setting.

He has joined our other corneal surgeon, Madhavan

Rajan, in providing corneal grafting and other corneal services. In his role as lead for the eye emergency clinic his priority is supporting our great eye emergency team in providing patients with quick access to safe and effective care for their urgent eye problems. He hopes that over the coming years improvement in facilities and training in this service will make Addenbrooke's a model for emergency eye care.



## Addenbrooke's Team Research: Vitreoretinal Services

The Vitreoretinal Research Group at Cambridge University was established in 1993 to investigate and understand more clearly the causes, prevention and repair of retinal detachment.

**In contrast to many other blinding retinal disorders, retinal detachment is both relatively common and potentially preventable if those at risk could be more accurately identified.**

### Retinal Detachment - Causes

It is a relatively common misconception that retinal detachment occurs secondary to boxing or other direct trauma. In fact this is rarely the case. Our research over the last 27 years has been directed at investigating the genetic risk factors for retinal detachment, particularly in children where retinal detachment can be so devastating in terms of life-long visual loss. As a result of this research, in 2011 our service was commissioned by NHS England to provide the Highly Specialised diagnostic Service for Stickler syndrome – the commonest cause of retinal detachment in children and retinal detachment running in families. In 2016 our service was awarded the Bayer ophthalmology "gold" award for excellence in translation of research into patient care and receives referrals from all over the UK and the Republic of Ireland as well as further afield in Europe.

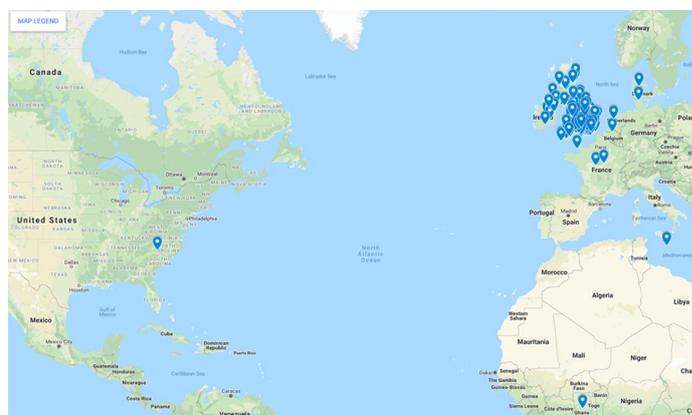
### Retinal Detachment – Prevention

As a result of these recent advances in molecular genetic analysis, it is now possible to stratify with far greater accuracy the risk of retinal detachment, particularly

those with an affected sibling or family history. By identifying those at highest risk we have developed a strategy for surgical prevention which hugely reduces the incidence of retinal detachment.

### Retinal Detachment – Repair

Our Vitreoretinal Service offers a 7 day a week, 365 day a year service for the emergency management of all aspects of retinal and vitreous disorders including retinal detachment, eye trauma, severe diabetic eye disease, all aspects of macular surgery (including macular hole,

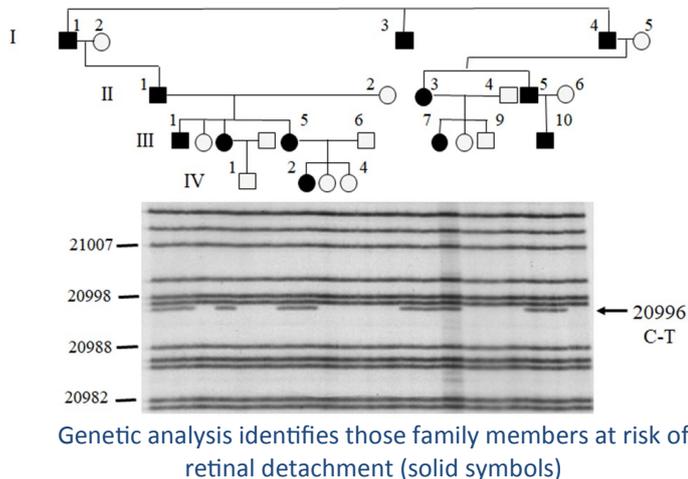


Our Vitreoretinal Service receives referrals from all over the UK and the Republic of Ireland as well as further

macular pucker) and retinal detachment repair in children. In addition, we receive referrals from other units for the management of the complications of cataract surgery and repair of recurrent retinal detachment for which primary surgical repair has been unsuccessful.

The use of liquid silicone for retinal detachment repair was pioneered in Cambridge by Mr JD Scott and we are currently collaborating with both the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Cambridge and the British Ophthalmic Surveillance Unit (BOSU) investigating further the biomechanics of the intraocular use of silicone and perfluorocarbon liquids for retinal surgery.

We have also developed a novel mini-gene laboratory model to determine the pathogenicity of deep intronic variants identified by whole gene sequencing affecting splicing. This functional mini-gene analysis is also commissioned as part of the NHS England specialist service.



Continued:

### Allied speciality collaborations

We currently have ongoing research collaborations with the University of York, the Medical Research Council, the University of Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and the Dept of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge investigating dual-sensory loss and markers of osteoarthritis.

#### Our Significant Research and Service milestones

- 1994 Identification of genetic heterogeneity in Stickler syndrome
- 1996 Identification of the gene for Type 2 Stickler syndrome
- 2000 Identification of the genetic basis for "ocular only" Stickler syndrome
- 2011 NHS England commission Cambridge Vitreoretinal Service to provide the Highly Specialised national service for patients with Stickler syndrome
- 2013 Identification of a novel recessive variant of Stickler associated with total congenital deafness
- 2014 Surgical protocol published to reduce the risk of retinal detachment in Type 1 Stickler syndrome
- 2016 Identification of genetic variant in the Stickler gene associated with retinal detachment in general population



Visit: [www.vitreoretinalservice.org](http://www.vitreoretinalservice.org)

### New Appointment: Liam Sullivan joins as Consultant Ophthalmologist

Liam Sullivan is a Consultant Ophthalmologist with Anglia, having developed the region's first laser simulation expertise in medical retina and cataract surgery at Addenbrooke's hospital. After completing his Ophthalmology training in Yorkshire he undertook advanced Fellowship training in cataract surgery, retinal disease and uveitis at St James's hospital, Addenbrooke's and Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Having led the medical retina service at Peterborough hospital for three years, He has now settled in Cambridge and hold a substantive consultant post at Addenbrooke's hospital. He primarily cares for patients with age-related macula degeneration, diabetic eye disease, retinal vein occlusion, inherited retinal disorders and other general retinal conditions using the most up-to-date treatments.

He regularly performs intravitreal injections and laser treatment. He is the Lead for laser simulation training in East

Anglia, having developed the region's first laser simulation training course. He performs small incision cataract surgery and have extensive experience in operating on complex cases and in patients with underlying retinal diseases. He trains on the international Microsurgical skills course for the Royal College of Ophthalmologists after being elected in 2015.

He continues to teach specialist trainees at Addenbrooke's whilst providing advanced fellowship training in Medical Retina.



## CET Insight: LHON Society – Over five years of helping patients with Leber’s Hereditary Ophthalmic Neuropathy

Update from Russell Wheeler—LHON Society

Quietly, and without ceremony, the Leber’s Hereditary Ophthalmic Neuropathy Society (LHON Society) celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2019, just a few weeks after its third and most successful patient day, held this year in Birmingham and attended by more than 50 members and guests. The day was an outstanding success, the key was to make the event as interactive as possible from the outset. The level of participation from those attending was a privilege to witness. Videos of the event will shortly be available on the society’s website, we would recommend anyone with an interest in visual impairment and patient engagement to view them as they contain a wealth of information which will benefit a much wider community than just LHON.



LHON is an inherited disease that primarily affects the optic nerve causing loss of central vision.

*LHON Patient meeting in Birmingham* LHON can strike at any age, it is often manifested in late teens or early 20s in otherwise unaffected patients. There is a much higher percentage of males affected than females and as it is caused by a mitochondrial dysfunction it is inherited only through the female line. It is classed as a rare disease, with an estimated prevalence of 1:35,000 so perhaps 1,500 to 2,000 patients in the UK suffer from the condition with approximately 2 or 3 times that number of unaffected carriers. Little is known about what causes the condition to be triggered; lifestyle and environmental factors perhaps playing a part but the causes so far defy explanation.

Although discovered almost 150 years ago, LHON was considered untreatable for most of that time and advice

*LHON can be a devastating diagnosis for people who are often just setting out on their life’s journey.*

given to newly diagnosed patients was a rather brutal instruction to learn to deal with their new circumstances. In 2015 the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the repurposed drug Raxone as treatment for LHON and this was approved for prescription in Scotland in 2017 (and much of Europe before that) but, at the time of writing, it is still not available on prescription in England & Wales. Other treatments are in the pipeline, including a gene therapy which shows great promise but which has yet to be submitted to EMA for approval. So there is hope, but it is a long time to wait.

The LHON Society was formed in May 2014, interestingly enough following the trustees attendance at the first ever educational seminar arranged by Cambridge’s Findacure ([www.findacure.org.uk](http://www.findacure.org.uk)), a charity dedicated to supporting patient organisations for rare diseases. Findacure proved a great friend to the society in its formative years, with advice and support as well as educational opportunities and even a mentor in our difficult first year of operation.

LHON can be a devastating diagnosis for people who are often just setting out on their life’s journey. Having to make fundamental choices about career changes etc while dealing with the practical difficulties of learning to live with a severe visual impairment, can be overwhelming.

There are existing sources of information and support for those directly and indirectly affected by LHON, links to these can be gained from our website or by contacting us. We uniquely play an important affiliated role. Research into LHON is something that no other patient organisation is working towards, this together with political advocacy, is where we have chosen to focus our efforts. LHON Society was instrumental in the Scottish Medicine Consortium’s approval of Raxone in 2017 and is currently lobbying NHSE in their ongoing assessment of Raxone in England. Keep up to date with our progress at: [www.lhonsociety.org](http://www.lhonsociety.org).



## Cambridge Eye Trust— new materials to promote our charity

CET launched its new website in 2019. The website gives readers an insight into the types of projects we support and also offers links to ophthalmology support services in Cambridgeshire. You can use the 'Contact us' page if you would like to comment on its content or about the newsletter—we would welcome hearing from you.



Also look out for us on posters and on the ophthalmology clinic TV screens.

The **Cambridge Eye Trust** was initiated in 1970 by a number of consultants in Cambridge who believed that they had an opportunity to improve eye care through:

- Funding ophthalmic research programmes without the need to rely on other sources, thus expediting discovery
- Specific financial support of the Professor of Ophthalmology at Cambridge University by providing departmental grants
- Giving doctors from worldwide destinations (through the Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium) an opportunity to learn from, and discuss medical innovation with those at the peak of their research or clinical field.

### Why consider supporting eye care?

It would not be an understatement to say that having sight is one of most important senses a person has. That the loss of sight can have a real detrimental impact on that person and their family. While failing sight does come with age, there are millions of children and adults who are affected early by poor sight or blindness. Why? Because their condition is picked up too late, the cause of the condition is not known about or a successful treatment is not available. Our fundamental aim, in some small way is to be a catalyst for ophthalmic treatment progression.

## Meet our Trustees



Mr (Dr) Nicholas Sarkies  
Chairman



Mr Rod Ashby-Johnson  
Trustee



Dr Tasneem Khatib  
Trustee



Prof. Madhavan Rajan  
Trustee



Miss (Dr) Humma Shahid  
Trustee



Mr (Dr) Anthony Vivian  
Trustee



Mr (Dr) Martin Snead  
Scientific Advisor



Mr Robin Bligh  
Financial Advisor

## Thank you to our Donors

A big thank you from us to all our supporters who have donated to the Cambridge Eye Trust. We hope you can see from the articles that the funds raised are really making a difference locally and internationally. You have enabled us to support research, innovation, education and clinical best practice in ophthalmology, which will save sight.



## Like to make a donation to the Cambridge Eye?

Would you like to help us by making a donation to the Cambridge Eye Trust?

We are always grateful for any donations big or small, they will help us continue towards our vision, to save sight.

If you would like to make a donation there are 3 ways to do so:

1. Sending a cheque made payable to 'Cambridge Eye Trust' to: Mr Nicholas Sarkies, Chairman Cambridge Eye Trust, Wistow, The Green, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NB
2. Paying directly into the Trust's bank account: CAF Bank, Account number: 00021024, Sort code: 40-52-40. The reference, your name
3. By visiting our website at [www.cambridgeeyetrust.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeeyetrust.org.uk) where donations can be made online at the click of a button.

The Cambridge Eye Trust would like to use as much money as possible to support it's vision, to save sight.

Future editions of the Cambridge Eye Foundation newsletter can be distributed electronically via email subscription. Printed copies will be available in Addenbrooke's clinics. If you would like to receive a copy by email please send your name and email address for correspondence to **[louise@healthology.eu](mailto:louise@healthology.eu)** who will add you to our email subscription list. Thank you



### DONATION FORM

I want to support research to save sight and I am making a donation of £\_\_\_\_\_

Please treat as Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to the Cambridge Eye Trust, which is registered as a Charity no. 265140. (please tick)

*I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the Gift Aid claimed on all donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay the difference.*

I am unable or do not wish to Gift Aid. (please tick)

*giftaid it*  
making donations go further

If you are a UK taxpayer then the Cambridge Eye Trust can increase your donation by an extra £0.25 for every £1.00 you donate by claiming Gift Aid from HM Revenue & Customs at no extra cost to you.

Title:		First name:		Surname:	
Full Home Address:					
Postcode:					
Email:					
Signature:				Date:	

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