LVF Eye Centre

NEWS

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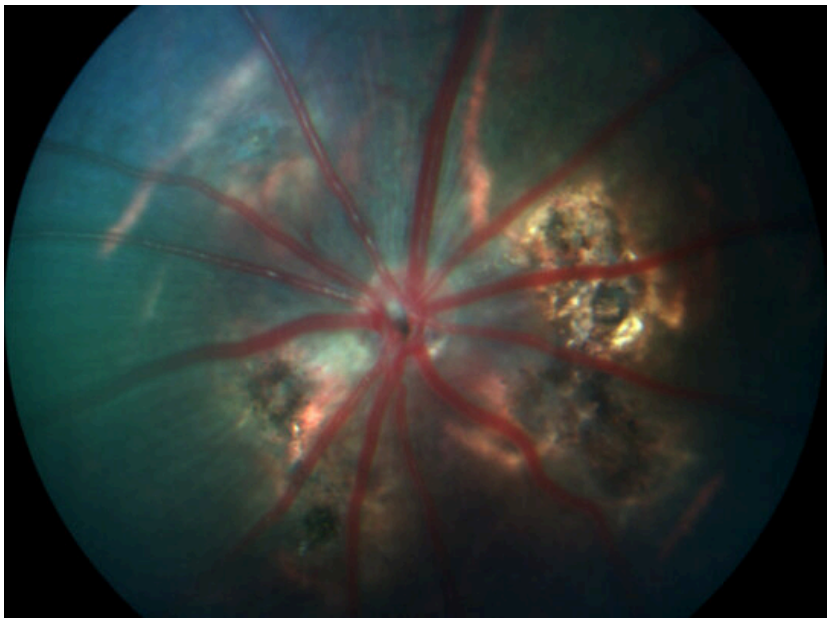
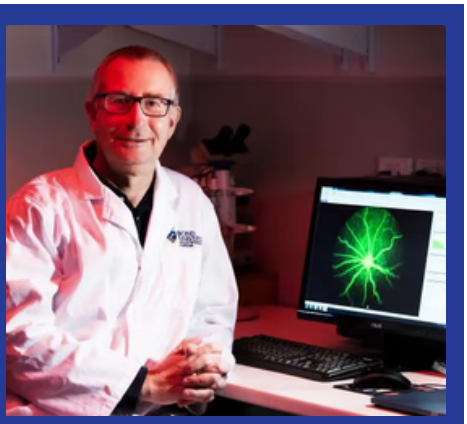


Breakthroughs in Gene Therapy Research

The LVF Research Centre has made significant progress in the pre-clinical testing of our first therapeutic gene for treating wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Using cutting-edge lab models and global best practices, our team is helping pave the way for safer, longer-lasting treatments that could transform the future of vision care

Celebrating Our Collaborator's Success

We're proud to share that long-time LVF Eye Centre collaborator Associate Professor Nigel Barnett has been appointed Director of the Clem Jones Centre for Regenerative Medicine at Bond University. His leadership marks an exciting new chapter in our partnership and strengthens our shared mission to advance innovative treatments for blinding eye diseases.



PhD Milestone

Congratulations to Naushene Sial, who has successfully completed her PhD confirmation at the Translational Research Institute. Her work explores a promising gene therapy approach for dry age-related macular degeneration and the development of a lab model that replicates retinal ageing.

About Professor Chris Layton

Professor Christopher Layton is a private Clinical Ophthalmologist, a national leader in innovative ophthalmology and has a special interest in clinical education.
His expertise is in macular disease, lens surgery and minimally invasive glaucoma interventions.

LVF Eye Centre

NEWS

Pre-Clinical Progress: LVF Advances Anti-Angiogenic Gene Therapy

The Layton Vision Foundation Research Centre has reached an important milestone in the pre-clinical testing of its first therapeutic candidate targeting wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Our team continues to develop anti-angiogenic gene therapies using modified AAV2/8 capsids designed for higher transduction efficiency in human eye cells. These therapies aim to suppress abnormal blood vessel growth in the retina, the primary cause of vision loss in wet AMD.

Using eye tissues donated to the Queensland Tissue Bank, we have established 3D human choroid and retinal models to test our therapies in line with the FDA's new roadmap promoting human-based testing methods over animal studies. This forward-looking approach allows more reliable, human-relevant data while supporting global efforts to reduce animal use in research.

In collaboration with Associate Professor Nigel Barnett's laboratory in the Clem Jones Centre for Regenerative Medicine at Bond University, the LVF Eye Centre has also completed safety and dosing studies in a laser-induced rat model. Our goal is to deliver sustained treatment from a single injection, reducing the frequency of eye injections and easing the treatment burden for patients.

These advances mark a major step toward safer, longer-lasting gene therapies for blinding retinal disease.

Nigel Barnett Appointed Head of Clem Jones Centre for Regenerative Medicine

We're delighted to congratulate our long-time collaborator, Associate Professor Nigel Barnett, on his appointment as Director of the Clem Jones Centre for Regenerative Medicine at Bond University.

Associate Professor Barnett has been a key research partner of the LVF Eye Centre, contributing his extensive expertise in retinal biology and regenerative medicine to advance our shared goal of developing innovative treatments for blinding eye diseases. His leadership at the Clem Jones Centre is a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding contributions to vision science and regenerative research.

Together with Associate Professor Barnett's team, the LVF Eye Centre's research team continues to explore new frontiers in gene therapy, regenerative approaches, and pre-clinical testing aimed at reducing the global burden of vision loss. His new role will further strengthen collaboration between the LVF Eye Centre and Bond University, enhancing research capacity and accelerating the translation of discoveries into clinical practice.

We warmly congratulate Nigel on this achievement and look forward to continuing our successful partnership as we work towards restoring and preserving sight through world-class science.

PhD Student update

Naushene Sial successfully completed her PhD confirmation on 30 June at the Translational Research Institute. Her presentation showed one year of preliminary data on a promising novel gene therapy approach for dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD), alongside the development of an in vitro model that mimics retinal ageing through exposure to blue light and a pigment that accumulates in the retina with age. Her progress was well received and formally approved by the review panel, which included Dr David Owen and Dr John Hooper (UQ) and Dr Bijay Dhungel (University of Sydney).

The Eye Ball 2025 Wrap Up

The 2025 Eye Ball was a truly memorable evening, bringing together our community in support of the Layton Vision Foundation and the important work advancing eye health and vision care.

Guests were treated to an evening of exceptional entertainment with the performances captivating the audience and adding to the night's incredible energy.

The raffle proved to be one of the highlights, with a range of highly sought-after prizes, including a stunning diamond necklace.

Follow our socials for the venue and ticket announcement coming soon for the 2026 Eye Ball.