

Retina Australia National Congress 2012.

HOPE IN SIGHT.

19, 20, 21 October 2012 at Sebel Parramatta.

Hosted by Retina Australia NSW (Inc).

President Retina Australia (National) and Retina Australia (NSW),
Graeme Banks OAM.

Event Coordinator. Robyn Richards OAM.

Committee Graeme Banks, Andrew Dunn and Liz Wheeler.

Friday 19

5:30 Registration

6:00-8:00pm Cocktail **Party. Prof Robin Ali in attendance.**

Saturday 20

8:00 am Registration and Coffee.

9:00 am Welcome Retina Australia President Graeme Banks OAM.

9:10 am Official Opening – **The Hon. Barry Jones AO Chairman
Vision 2020 Australia.**

9:20 am **Keynote Speaker Prof Robin Ali.**

Prof. of Human Molecular Genetics at UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, London where he is also Head of the Biomedical Research Centre for Ophthalmology at the Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. He was head of the first team involved with human trials for gene therapies and he has also been very involved in research into the use of stem cells in treating retinal dystrophies.

Topic - Gene Therapy for retinal deegenerations, an overview of the Moorfields Hospital clinical trials programme.

10:05 am Questions.

10:15 am Housekeeping, Roll Call

10:25 am Morning Tea.

10:55 am ***Dr John De Roach and Ms Tina Lamey***

Principal Medical Physicist, Department of Medical technology and Physics at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital WA. Director of the Australian Inherited Retinal Disease Register and DNA Bank.

Topic - Australian Inherited Retinal Disease Register and DNA Bank progress.

11:25 am: *Entitlements of a Vision Impaired Person*" Vision Australia.

12:00 pm ***Dr Lauren Ayton***

Bionic Eye Research Coordinator, Centre for Eye Research, Melbourne.

Topic - Bionic eye Progress.

12:40 pm Lunch.

1:40 pm ***Associate Prof. Erica Fletcher***

Visual Neuroscience Laboratory Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology University of Melbourne.

Topic - The role of purines in photoreceptor death.

2:10 pm ***Workshops Session 1***

1 *What is it like to be blind? Regina Renfree (Guide Dogs).*

Preliminary to 'Sighted Guide Skill's: Suitable for family, friends and interested professionals with the expectation that you carry on with your partner in the Sighted Guide Skills workshop in Session 2. (Spare partners available)

It is often noted that family and professionals have no training in assisting a vision impaired person with dignity and safety. This workshop provides this opportunity.

2 *Retina Youth* (to be advised)

3. Vision impaired people and the Kitchen. (Vision Australia).

Helpful hints in working in the kitchen when vision impaired and useful tools. Suitable for vision impaired registrants.

3:10 pm Afternoon Tea.

3:40 pm **Workshops Session 2.**

1. *Sighted Guide skills.* Regina Renfree,(Guide dogs). Suitable for vision impaired registrants, their families and Professionals.(Spare partners available).
2. *Ophthalmic Issues and gene therapy.* (Prof. Robin Ali).
3. *Youth Issues.*(To be advised).

4:40 pm Introduction of Retina Australia Youth Representatives.

4:50 pm Close of session and housekeeping for Evening Events.

6:30 for 7:00 pm *Canapes prior to Gala Dinner.* Prof. Robin Ali and other presenters attending. An opportunity for Professionals and registrants to further talk with the presenters.

Entertainment: The Three Waiters:

Guest speaker **Don Burke** (NSW Patron).

Sunday 21

9:00 am **Prof. Robin Ali.**

Topic - Stem Cell therapy for retinal degeneration: a vision for the future.

9:45 am **Dr Una Greferath**

Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Melbourne.

Topic - The role of histamine in the development of the retina.

10:15 am **Prof. Robyn Guymer**

Head of Macular Research Unit, Centre for Eye research Australia University of Melbourne.

Topic - What influences the outcome of treatment in neo-vascular and age related macular degeneration.

10:45 am Housekeeping. Morning Tea.

11:15 am **Associate Prof. Robyn Jamieson**

Paediatrics, Genetic Medicine & Ophthalmology Sydney
Medical School University of Sydney and Clinical Geneticist
Children's Hospital Westmead.

***Topic - Investigation for novel disease genes in Cone
Rod Dystrophies.***

11:45 am ***Prof. David Hunt.***

Winthrop Professor, School of Animal Biology University of
WA.

Topic - Dominant Inherited Macular Dystrophies

Including the role of novel miRNA in the dominant syndromic
disorder of macular dystrophy and split hand/foot
malformation.

12:15 pm *Scientific Panel. Prof. Robin Ali and other
researchers.*

Registrants can ask the Professionals questions.

1:15 pm Lunch.

2:00 pm ***Workshops***

1 Impact of vision impairments on the families: For persons
who are carers or members of families of affected persons. An
opportunity for the family members of vision impaired persons
to talk of their issues. (Lead by a professional counsellor).

2 Ophthalmic Issues, stem cell therapy. Prof Robin Ali.

3 Latest Technology for vision impaired people (Vision
Australia and Guide Dogs). Latest in phones I pads, Canes
and other helpful products for the vision impaired registrant
and interested Professionals.

4. Retina Youth, an opportunity for friendship!

3:15 pm Congress Closes