



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY

CLINICAL SERVICES • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

The Barry Cole Building
Corner Keppel And Cardigan Streets
Carlton VIC 3053 Australia
Tel: +61 3 9349 7550
Email: abardsley@aco.org.au
www.aco.org.au ABN:18 004 235 250

PRESS RELEASE

Ultra Desert Run Fundraising for National Vision Research Institute

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) is delighted to announce that long term supporter of our National Vision Research Institute (NVRI), John Nicola of Optiqueline, is completing the Marathon des Sables for the second time in 2015 and has committed his fundraising efforts to the NVRI.

The Marathon des Sables (Marathon of the Sands) is a 254km (200 mile) race in the Sahara desert, where competitors have to carry all that they need for the week long journey with them, with the exception of water. 2015 will be the 30th year that the event – known as the toughest footrace on earth - has run.

The NVRI, established in 1972, is a division of the ACO and oversees basic, clinical and translational vision research programs at the ACO, including the supervision of PhD and Masters students in association with university partners. The NVRI currently has a strong focus on visual neuro-engineering, and carries out research on neural development in the visual cortex, retinal physiology and translational research through its neuro-engineering laboratory. It has been heavily involved in the development of bionic eye devices in partnership with Bionic Vision Australia, to restore vision in people with retinitis pigmentosa and age-related macular degeneration. The NVRI is also a node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function which places it in a research network with Australia's top six research universities. The Centre will examine the neural basis of attention, predication and decision-making through all the senses, with a heavy emphasis on vision.

The ACO relies on the generous support of donors to continue its important work and we are extremely grateful to the intrepid John for making this further commitment of support to the NVRI! Further information about making donations in support of John's efforts are available on our website: www.aco.org.au/mds.

For further information please contact Arwen Bardsley on (03) 9349 7550 or aco@aco.org.au.