

Luxottica Graduate Induction

Over 50 new optometry graduates joined Luxottica at the start of February 2017 for 'EYE Launch', Luxottica's two day graduate induction program. The event was held at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management, North Ryde. EYE Launch is the first part of Luxottica's two year 'Graduate Development Pathway', designed to ensure new optometry graduates are provided with the best support during the crucial early part of their career.

EYE Launch included a keynote address from Anthea Muir, President of Luxottica Optical Retail ANZ, along with information sessions on advanced eye care and lens technology and their responsibilities as health care practitioners. Peter Murphy, director of eye care and community for Luxottica commented, "Luxottica is undergoing significant growth and we are committed to bringing on more new graduates and opening more optometry rooms to extend our reach in providing life changing eye care."

Alcon Educational Seminars

Alcon Australia will run a series of educational webinars in March, May, August and October this year. The webinars build on a strong educational offering which includes the SynergEYES Ophthalmology conference, OptimEYES for orthoptists and technical staff, and the ONWARD nurses conference. Conferences, presented by both overseas and local specialists, provide an opportunity for all participants to discuss clinical needs, trending topics and the latest technological developments in ophthalmology.

The first webinar will take place on 22 March and invites will be sent directly from Alcon.

Victorian Glaucoma Clinic Offers Collaborative Care

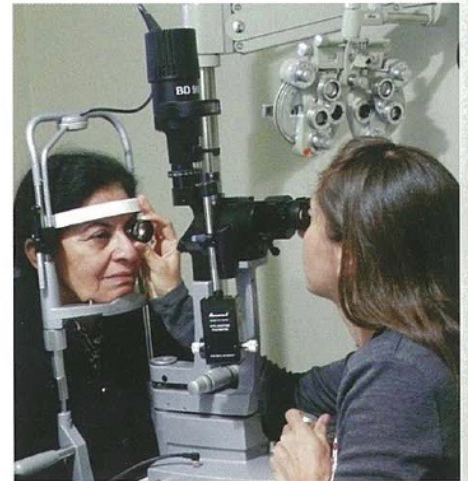
A new glaucoma clinic has been established as a partnership between the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) and The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital (RVEEH).

The clinic, for the management of patients with suspected or early glaucoma, aims to address the existing and growing demand for glaucoma services and enable safe, correct and timely management from eye care practitioners.

The new glaucoma clinic is located at the Australian College of Optometry's main clinic in Carlton. It is staffed by ophthalmologists, optometrists and orthoptists who work as a team to target patients with suspected or early glaucoma – the leading cause of preventable and irreversible blindness worldwide.

It is anticipated that the collaborative approach being taken by ACO and RVEEH will provide a more effective and efficient model of care to address the growing demand for glaucoma services.

It is estimated that 3.7 per cent of the Australian population has glaucoma or are strong suspects for the disease. In Victoria it is estimated to affect over 200,000 people.



Simple Hazard Reduction Would Reduce Glaucoma Falls

Simple measures like improving ambient lighting, installing grab rails, and eliminating hazardous rugs would reduce the incidence of falls among people with glaucoma, according to a new study published in *Ophthalmology*.

The study identified that the majority of people with advanced glaucoma do not adapt their home environment by removing hazards.

The study assessed the homes of 175 of 245 patients enrolled in the Falls in Glaucoma Study. Participants were aged 60 or over and receiving care for diagnosed or suspected glaucoma.

It evaluated 74 hazards in up to eight areas of the home (a total of 194 items) in the entry way, living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, stairs, and hallway. Only those rooms used by the participant for one or more hours a day were included in the assessment. The mean number of items graded per home was 85.2 (SD = 13.2), and an average of 32.7 (38.3 per cent) were identified as hazards.¹

Linear regression models were used to analyse the relationship between the observed hazard and visual field. Co-variants included age, sex, race and whether or not the patient lived alone.

Common items graded and assessed as being hazardous were low ambient lighting (100 per cent), an inadequate number of handrails (87 per cent), absence of a bathmat or non-skid

strips in the bathtub/shower (86 per cent), absence of grab bars in the bathtub/shower (79 per cent) and hazardous rugs (unsecured or curled edges; 75 per cent).² The most hazards were found in the bathroom (54.2 per cent of graded items were classified as hazardous) with the stairs and entry ways also found to be particularly hazardous.¹

The authors noted that hazard frequency did not vary by severity of visual field impairment.

"The most hazards were found in the bathroom... with the stairs and entry ways also found to be particularly hazardous"

References

1. [www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420\(16\)32118-2/fulltext?rss=yes](http://www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420(16)32118-2/fulltext?rss=yes)
2. www.fallingglaucoma.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Fall-hazards-in-the-homes-of-individuals-with-glaucoma.pdf