(COVER) PROFESSOR FRANK BILLSON (CENTRE) AND DR LUCIANO DALLA POZZA EXAMINE YOUNG RETINOBLASTOMA PATIENT, SAM BROTHERSTONE, AS PART OF THEIR JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAM.
THE SAVE SIGHT INSTITUTE

PATRON
His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC
Governor of New South Wales

COUNCIL
Mr Peter Ketley (President)
Mr Alan Judd PDG (Deputy President)
Professor Frank Billson AO (Director)
Mr Peter Abrahamsen,
Allergan Australia Pty Ltd
Mr Ben Cohen
Mrs Vera Eagle, Friends of Sydney Hospital
Gas Tech Australia
Associate Professor Paul Mitchell
Dr Philip Penfold
Sir John Proud
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Dr J W Hornbrook

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PCC Ron Reavley
PDG Alan Judd

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Mrs Daphne Kok
Vice Chancellor and Principal
Professor Don McNicol
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and
Pro Vice Chancellor (Health Sciences)
Professor JA Young AO
Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Professor Ann Sefton

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Professor Frank Billson
Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Professor Bogdan Dreher
Department of Anatomy and Histology
Dr Tom Fitzgibbon
Research Fellow
Dr John Grigg
Lecturer, Department of Ophthalmology
Dr Ora Lux
Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr John McAvoy
Reader in Department of Anatomy and Histology

Dr Kathy Mc Clellan
Head of Ocular Microbiology Research Laboratory and
External Eye Disease Unit
Dr Michele Madigan
Research Fellow
Assoc Prof Paul Mitchell
Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Dr Philip Penfold
Senior Research Fellow
Dr Jan Provis
Senior Lecturer in Departments of Ophthalmology,
Anatomy and Histology
Professor Ann Sefton
Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine

RESEARCH STAFF
Ms Tanya Balind, Technical Officer
Mrs Penny Bernard, Microbiologist
Dr Max Conway, Research Student
Dr Claudia Diaz, Postdoctoral Fellow
Mr Antony Edwards, Research Assistant
Mr Sean Fitzgerald, Electrophysiologist
Dr Mark Gillies, Clinical Ophthalmologist
Dr Joseph Gyory, Research Student
Mr Jahangir Hasan, Research Student
Ms Jessica Leech, Research Student
Mr Jason Stayt, Research Assistant
Dr Tao Su, Research Assistant
Mrs Diana Van Driel, Research Assistant
Dr Meidong Zhu, Research Student

ADMINISTRATION
Ms Barbara Healy, Administrative Officer
Mr Jonathan Higgs, Finance Officer

EYE BANK STAFF
Professor Frank Billson, Director
Dr Kathy Mc Clellan, Deputy Director
Ms Shirley Ball, Coordinator
Ms Lynne Cook, Coordinator
Mr Raj Devashayam, Lab Manager
Dr John Grigg, Clinical Advisor
Ms Helen Kerry, Coordinator
Ms Sally Willis, Coordinator
Dr Meidong Zhu, Relief Scientific Officer

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Save Sight Institute is the prevention and cure of blindness and eye cancer, particularly in children and the elderly, through our research, teaching and community awareness programs.

Our research programs have importance not only for the understanding of eye diseases and eye cancer, but have implications for the investigation, understanding, and counselling for genetic eye disease.

The Institute conducts seminars and international conferences where medical specialists, scientists, and students gather to share their expertise and skills in the area of eye health and eye disease. We offer the only full time course in Australia which trains Doctors planning a career in ophthalmology.

Our free eye screenings, informative brochures, and national radio broadcasts encourage the public to take a proactive approach to eye care and stress the importance of their being well informed on eye health issues.

We believe an informed community will become advocates of eye health.

It is imperative this work continue. By the year 2000 there will be a doubling of the population affected by age related macular degeneration (AMD). AMD is presently the cause of 90% of blindness in Australians over the age of 50. The Institute's research has resulted in an effective treatment for the most severe complication of the disease. Prevention remains the challenge. The Save Sight Institute's work has never been more relevant to solving the problems of blindness we face now and in the future.

The future of the Institute depends heavily on the support of the community.

The Save Sight Institute has pioneered research in diseases for which there are no cures yet. It is to fight these diseases such as retinal cancer in children and macular degeneration in the elderly, that we ask for your support. Please help us to continue our work by sending your tax deductible donation to:

The Save Sight Institute
P O Box 493
DARLINGHURST 2010
1995 saw the Save Sight Institute celebrate its tenth anniversary. While the move to its new headquarters on Macquarie Street did not occur in 1995 as planned, this delay of many months has neither prevented the recruitment of increased community support nor the advance of the Institute's research and educational activities. Two events in particular are indicative of the Institute's expanding role. Firstly, during the year, the Lions NSW Eye Bank has come closer to the administration of the Institute. The Eye Bank's salaried Director has been replaced by Professor Frank Billson. Professor Billson together with other members of staff are providing their services on a voluntary basis. It is anticipated that the new management will be instrumental in considerably reducing waiting times for services available from the Eye Bank. Secondly, a 'state of the art' electron microscope was purchased to replace an aging unit. The new instrument will be available in 1996 to enhance the research of the Institute staff.

Mr Alan Judd stepped down as President in September 1995. On behalf of the Council, and personally, I would like to thank Alan for his commitment to the Institute. Alan was elected Chairman in 1992 and guided the Institute through the period of reconstruction of its Constitution in 1993. In the new Constitution, the position of President superseded that of Chairman, and Alan was elected President. Alan has now handed on the Presidency of a healthy and successful organisation, and has agreed to serve on the Council as Deputy President.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank all who have supported the Institute. The generosity of both corporate and individuals donors has enabled the Institute to move inexorably closer to the goals set 10 years ago, which are still as relevant today as they were then..."the prevention of and cure of blindness and eye cancer, particularly in children and the elderly."

Also, I commend the dedicated band of the Institute's research, teaching and administrative staff, headed by the Institute Director, Professor Frank Billson. The results achieved by this group (as outlined in the Director's Report) amply demonstrate that they are consistent achievers who are more than worthy of the support they receive.

Although much has been achieved, there is still a considerable amount to be done. Advances in health research generally come slowly and after long, hard and sometimes tedious work. I ask our supporters not to become complacent, but to continue to extend their help in order that the Institute may continue to strive for the benefit of the community.

Mr Peter Ketley
President
1995 celebrated ten years of the Save Sight Institute’s achievements in research, teaching and community awareness. Fulfilling our aim to prevent and cure blindness and eye cancer particularly in children and the elderly.

Since 1986 our research and education programs have steadily increased. A measure of our growth can be seen in our success in attracting nationally competitive research grants, in the increased number of Institute publications and in our success in training scientists at the postdoctoral level who, through their thesis, contribute to the body of knowledge in Science.

The Blue Mountains Eye Study, supported by the Institute and led by Associate Professor Paul Mitchell, has been the first prospective community study on eye disease in people over 50. It has shown that age related macular degeneration is the major cause of retinal blindness in people within this age group. It has provided us with insights into glaucoma and the changing appearance of the optic nerve in patients with the disease.

Laboratory research of the human eye allows us to view its development, aging and associated diseases with a greater understanding into the fundamental processes that become disturbed in eye disease. Our groundbreaking research has led to the recognition of the immune system in the retina. We have done functional studies in tissue culture of the human cells that compose the retina, and are the first research group to set up the blood retinal barrier in tissue culture using human cells. Our studies have enormous relevance to therapeutic interventions for eye diseases in the retina.

The interface between scientific and clinical practice, has resulted in our developing new treatments which will soon be the subject for nationally funded trials. Namely our using triamcinolone as an intervention for the acute form age related macular degeneration and our finding less toxic therapies in the management of childhood eye cancer—which has already shown to be effective in individual cases in clinical practice.

This interface between science and clinical practice is now being expressed through the clinical trials that the Department is presently involved in. We are clinically trialling new drugs in the management of glaucoma. These medical therapies complement our research into the understanding of glaucoma. Also, the Institute’s groundbreaking research has set new guidelines in the management of paediatric cataracts and intraocular lens implantation.

The Ophthalmic Basic Science Course and the Registrar’s Training Symposium continue to be well attended. Each aims to prepare Doctors for a career in Ophthalmology. Each is the only course of its kind offered in Australia. Our courses have the added benefit that the young people, who are the future of ophthalmology, will get to know their colleagues at an early stage in their careers.

Our community awareness program which includes a national radio broadcast, informative newsletters and free eye screenings continue to evoke a large number of queries each week from people seeking information about eye disease and eye health. Only when the community is empowered with information about their health and health issues will we have a health system that is truly healthy.
In February 1995, the entire Faculty of Medicine underwent a research review of the years 1991 to 1994. The review was chaired by the distinguished Scientist, Professor J. Bienenstock, of McMaster University, Ontario, Canada. The review committee's report included the following statement about the Save Sight Institute which is a Foundation of the University of Sydney.

"The Department has done well in the past, and has positioned itself well for the future with its Foundation and the new quarters. These developments provide an opportunity for the University to develop a centre of excellence in research in ophthalmology and visual neurosciences."

This brief account of our activities reflects the importance of the Save Sight Institute, which will be further affirmed when the Minister of Health opens the new Institute on Macquarie Street early in the coming year.

At present the Institute is situated on two sites, one in Darlinghurst and the other at the old Eye Hospital in Woolloomooloo.

Construction, albeit delayed, has begun and the Institute will soon be part of the new Sydney Hospital Sydney Eye Hospital complex on Macquarie Street. The Institute's new headquarters occupy the southwing of the new Hospital complex, a three-story building situated next to the Mint and facing onto Macquarie Street. This close association of the Institute and the Hospital will allow for an easier integration of our activities. We know this new interface between Hospital and Institute, where the laboratory and clinical amenities enable clinicians and scientists to work more closely together, will be of great benefit to the patients of Sydney Eye Hospital as it has been in the past.

We have new and exiting plans for our refurbishment. The estimated costs is 1.2 million. We have raised half, but we still seek to complete the building with the continued support of the community.

With community support we were able to purchase a new Electron Microscope. It replaces the 30 year old electron microscope, which is too old and fragile to transfer to the new site. With this new microscope our doctors, scientists and researchers can view the structure of the eye, its cells and tissues at a magnification of 10,000 to 40,000 times greater than our previous light microscope. The Instrument will complement our tissue culture facilities and functional studies in the human eye. The Save Sight Institute’s contribution to understanding glaucoma, age related macular degeneration and eye cancer in children has been made possible with this essential equipment.

We are made confident of our future by the record of our past. But, in these difficult economic times, the continued support of the community is critical to our future success.

Prof Frank Billson
Director
TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
The Great Hall of the University of Sydney was not large enough to seat all of the supporters who came to join in celebrating the Save Sight Institute's Tenth Anniversary at a Dinner held on June 15.

The evening highlighted the achievements of the Save Sight Institute over the past ten years. Illustrating the importance of our work not only in Australia where over 50% of blindness is preventable, but in the context of the world at large.

The senior academics of the Board of the Save Sight Institute, The Deputy Chancellor, Mrs Daphne Kok, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Don McNicol, and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor J A Young were amongst the distinguished guests and speakers.

The Guest Speaker, Mr Phillip Adams, entertained guests with a thoughtful speech that was amusing and at times irreverent. He struck a serious note when he spoke of the genuine fear the community has of blindness. He referred to Touching the Rock, by John Hull. Hull's book poignantly describes the process of going blind.

CIVIC HONOUR FOR SAVE SIGHT DIRECTOR
Professor Frank Billson was honoured with a civic reception in Griffith followed by a dinner held at the Griffith Regional Theatre. The event was organised by the District Lions Club. Guests travelled hundreds of kilometres to attended the Dinner. Professor Billson addressed guests on the challenge we share with the community in eliminating unnecessary blindness.

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OPHTHALMIC REGISTRAR’S CONFERENCE ON GLAUCOMA FOR TRAINEE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF RACO.

OPHTHALMIC REGISTRAR’S CONFERENCE
Glaucoma was the topic of the 1995 Ophthalmic Registrar’s Conference. The three day conference held at the University of Sydney and sponsored by the Save Sight Institute was attended by some 100 registrars from all over Australia. This meeting is unique in that it provides a forum for the Registrars to present their work to their peers. A major aim of the meeting is to prepare the Registrar’s for their careers as Ophthalmologists, which often requires their addressing large scientific meetings.

Mr Roger Hitchings, Director of the Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, was the Principal Speaker. Other guest lecturers included Professor Ravi Thomas of Vellore Christian Medical Centre, Vellore India, Associate Professor Paul Mitchell, of Westmead Hospital, and Director of the Save Sight Institute and Head of Sydney University’s Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Professor Frank Billson.

On day three the registrars were taken to examine glaucoma cases at Sydney Eye Hospital. This was one of the highlights of the conference. The registrars were joined by Sydney’s leading Glaucoma specialists, who brought with them their most complex glaucoma patients. During this case conference, fifteen patients had their eyes filmed, using state of the art laser technology, with an instrument called a laser ophthalmoscope. This high tech laser enabled all the doctors to view the glaucomas on a video screen, thus enabling them to jointly discuss the cases.

PROFESSOR BILLSON PRESENTS MR ROGER HITCHINGS WITH THE CLAFFEY MEMORIAL MEDAL. LEFT TO RIGHT, DR MARTIN DUNCAN, DR ADRIAN FARINELLI, PROFESSOR FRANK BILLSON, MR ROGER HITCHINGS AND DR ALVIN GOH.

VISITING SCIENTISTS
Distinguished ophthalmologists from all over the world spend varying periods of time at the Save Sight Institute, participating in research and the formal exchange of knowledge.

In 1995 we were fortunate to have Professor Ravi Thomas and Dr Joseph Gyory, Professor Thomas of Vellore Christian Medical Centre, Vellore India, spent his sabbatical leave with us as Senior Lecturer working with our Glaucoma Program. Dr Gyory worked with the institute in the area of age related macular degeneration as Clinical Research Student. Dr Gyory has returned to Budapest, Hungary and has submitted a thesis for his Master of Medicine degree at Semmelweis University based on Institute studies.
NEW SSI PRESIDENT
In September the Council welcomed new President, Mr Peter Kettle. Mr Kettle has been associated with the Institute since 1993. His interest in preventing blindness was first kindled when he realised his son had an eye problem.

The Save Sight Institute is deeply appreciative to Mr Alan Judd, the outgoing President, for his contribution to the Institute. During his two terms as President the Institute underwent major developments and achieved significant milestones.

ARVO
In May several of the Institute’s scientists and clinical staff presented their research at the prestigious Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) conference held in Florida. ARVO is the world’s largest annual scientific meeting of vision researchers. Drs Philip Pentland, Claudia Diaz, Jan Provis and Professor Frank Billson’s work on immune cells in both the developing and adult human retina was presented. Dr Mark Gillies and Dr Tao Su presented their work on a laboratory model of the “blood-retinal barrier”. Drs Karen Attebo, Paul Healy, Andrew Chang and Associate Professor Paul Mitchell presented their results from the Blue Mountains Eye Study. As a result of the presentations, a number of institutions sought collaborative relationships with Save Sight Institute researchers.

OPHTHALMIC BASIC SCIENCE COURSE
In June the Institute held the Ophthalmic Basic Science Course which helps candidates prepare for the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists Part I Examination. Our three week course is the only full-time course of its kind offered in Australia.

This year we were particularly appreciative for Professor Nicole Bogduk’s (Director, Cervical Spine Research Unit, University of Newcastle) participation in the Anatomy week. Professor Bogduk complements our strong teaching faculty.

SAVE SIGHT INSTITUTE HOUSES LIONS NSW EYE BANK
In October the Lions NSW Eye Bank was brought within the purview of the University Department of Clinical Ophthalmology and will be housed in the Save Sight Institute when it moves on to Macquarie Street.

Institute staff kindly offered to donate their services by accepting honorary positions. Professor Billson was appointed Director, Dr Kathy McClellan was appointed Deputy Director and Dr John Grigg has been appointed Clinical Adviser.

The Director, Professor Frank Billson said “The Eye Bank is a network of participating institutions and the Eye Bank’s laboratory and administration are there to ensure quality control and equity of distribution. We look forward to being part of the process that ensures the restoration of sight by corneal transplantation for the people of NSW and we know our performance will go from strength to strength in the upcoming year.”

THE INSTITUTE’S NEW HEADQUARTERS ON MACQUARIE STREET.
Our sincere thanks go to all of our supporters, who over the last financial year have helped us to continue our research, teaching and community awareness programs. Listed below are the individuals, companies, foundations and community groups who contributed $100.00 or more in 1995:

Adams, Mr N G  
Alcon Laboratories (Aust) P/L  
Allergan Aust P/L  
Ardlethan Lions Club  
Austinmer Lions Club  
Banerjee, Dr B  
Beech, Mr H M  
Bega Lions Club  
Begg, Mrs V  
Bombala Lions Club  
Booth, Dr F  
Bowral Lions Club  
Brown, Dr D  
Burgess, Mr C  
Burridge, Mrs P  
Calcutt, Dr J  
Campagnaro, Mr D  
Cheng, Ms J  
Chirnside, Mrs F  
Clark, Mrs E  
Clarke, Miss J  
Cohen Family Settlement Trust  
Cole, Mr T  
Coleambally Lions Club  
Collaredibri Lions Club  
Cotter, Miss M  
Cunneen, Mr R  
Darling, Mrs J  
Darlington Point Lions Club  
Davenport, Mr P  
Davies, Dr I  
Doble MHR, Hon J D  
Dockrell, Ms J  
Doyle, Mrs R L  
Egan, Mrs M  
Fardell, Miss G J  
Farinelli, Dr A  
Figgtree Lions Club  
Foster, Mr G  
Friends of Sydney Hospital  
Golding, Mr F  
Dykes, Mrs N  
Griffin, Mr J  
Griffith Lions Club  
Hackett, Ms G  
Hale, Mrs J  
Hardy, Sir James  
Harigan, Mrs G B  
Harwood, Mrs S  
Hawkeswood, Mrs S  
Haxell, Dr L  
Hillston Lions Club  
Hing, Dr S  
Hopkins, Dr N  
Horowitz, Dr G  
Kappagoda, Dr M  
Kennedy, Dr J  
Kelley, Mr P  
Koller, Mr P  
Laredo, Mrs J  
Leeton Lions Club  
Lemame Corporation Limited  
Lions Club of Narrandera  
Lions Club of Dungog  
Lions Club of Sydney  
Host Inc  
Liverpool City Lions Club  
Lloyd, Mr S  
MacMillan, Mr W J  
Mason, Sir John  
McDonald, Mrs H K  
Myers, Dr P  
Napoli, Mrs C M  
North Rocks Lions Club  
O'Connor, Mr & Mrs B  
Oak Flats Lions Club  
Ong, Dr K  
Outeridge, Dr G  
Pangilinan, Mr & Mrs R  
Payne, Mr L  
Pharmacia (Aust) Pty Ltd  
Playfair, Dr J  
Pound, Mrs J M  
Rawson, Dr R  
Roche, Dr J  
Ruggraf, Mrs A  
Scarf, Mr & Mrs R  
Scully-Clausen, Dr M  
Sefton, Prof Ann  
Shorter, Mr J  
Sigma Pharmaceuticals  
St Ives Lions Club  
Stewart, Mr J  
Stewart, Mr K  
Stokes, Mrs R  
Storz Instrument Company  
Street, Mrs J  
Tamworth/Peel Valley Lions  
Tang, Dr D  
Testor, Dr M  
Tookley Lions Club  
Turner Lions Club  
Video Unit Pty Ltd  
Villani, Ms J  
Warman Investments Pty Ltd  
Wechsler, Drs A & I  
Darragh, Mrs M  
Wang, Dr H G  
Wood, Mr D & Mrs J  
Wood, Justice J R  
Woodhouse, Dr D  
Worrell, Miss E M  
Wu, Mrs V  
Yanco Lions Club  
Youll, Mr W

And appreciation is also extended to:

The Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation for their contribution toward the purchase of the Institute's new Electron Microscope. Our research depends heavily on this piece of equipment.

The Ben Cohen Family Settlement Trust for ensuring the immunological research laboratory has ongoing support for its basic activities.

Merck Sharp and Dohme (Aust) Pty Ltd for their sponsorship of our newsletter Eye Sight.

Designs for Vision for their valuable help with the Ophthalmic Basic Science Course and Annual Dinner.

Ophthalmic Nurses from Sydney Eye Hospital for their assistance with the community eye screenings.
# Financial Statements

## Save Sight and Eye Health Institute

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 1995

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<th></th>
<th>Actual 1994</th>
<th>Actual 1995</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD</strong></td>
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<td>$ 456,267</td>
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<td>Electron Microscope Donation</td>
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<td>Annual Dinner</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cohen Ocular Immunology Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Science Program Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retinoblastoma Support Group</td>
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<td>Annual Dinner</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ACCUMULATED FUND CARRIED FORWARD</strong></td>
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**NOTES:**

1. These accounts have been prepared on a modified accrual basis.
2. Income tax is not applicable to the activities of the Institute.
3. The surplus funds are invested in the University cash pool.

I certify that the above balances are in accordance with the records of the Foundation.

B P McLaughlin FCPA
Administration Manager
Health Sciences Academic Group
BEQUESTS

A bequest is a legacy to the Save Sight Institute in your will.

By arranging a bequest with your solicitor, you are making a lasting contribution to the prevention and cure of blindness and eye cancer.

If you would like to help the Save Sight Institute continue its fight to combat blindness and eye cancer by leaving us something in your Will, please discuss the following information with your solicitor so as to ensure your bequest is both legally correct and handled strictly in accordance with your wishes.

Bequests to the Save Sight Institute can be made in a number of ways. These include:

- The allocation of a specific sum to the Save Sight Institute.
- The assigning of a percentage of your estate to the Save Sight Institute.
- The leaving of the residue of your estate to the Save Sight Institute.

An accurate, up-to-date Will is needed to ensure that your wishes are stated clearly with regard to the distribution of your property and assets. Without a Will, your wishes regarding your estate may not be respected.

The wording of your bequest is important. It must be precise in stating what you wish to happen to your estate. The Save Sight Institute is able to assist in providing the correct legal wording for your bequest. Some examples are outlined as follows:

IF YOU WISH TO LEAVE YOUR ENTIRE ESTATE
I GIVE, devise and bequeath the whole of my Estate, both real and personal, to the Save Sight Institute, The University of Sydney, and I DECLARE that the official receipt of the Save Sight Institute, The University of Sydney shall be sufficient discharge to my Trustees.

MAKING A RESIDUAL BEQUEST
After foregoing, provisions of my Will for my family and friends have been carried out I GIVE, devise and bequeath to the Save Sight Institute, The University of Sydney all the rest and residue of whatsoever kind of my Estate remaining and I DECLARE that the official receipt of the Save Sight Institute, The University of Sydney shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees.

MAKING A PERCENTAGE BEQUEST
My Trustee shall and stand possessed of my Estate upon the following trusts:
(i) As to...per cent thereof to pay the same to the Save Sight Institute and I DECLARE that the official receipt of the Save Sight Institute, The University of Sydney shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees.

In 1995 the Save Sight Institute was fortunate to receive a bequest from the estate of the Late Mrs Ina Susman. Mrs Susman left the bequest in the memory of her husband Dr Mick Susman who lost his sight to macular degeneration. The Institute's research in this area has received international recognition and Mrs Susman was keen to see this work continue.

The Director and Council wish to pay special tribute to the Susman Family.
Our membership program allows corporations, associations and individuals to participate more actively in the running of the Institute and its plans for the future. To our 1995 Members we say, “thank you and welcome”

MEMBERS
Alcon Laboratories (Australia) Pty Ltd
Lemarne Corporation Limited

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Mr Philip Davenport
Dr Ian Davies
Liverpool City Lions Club
North Rocks Lions Club
Dr Gregory Outteridge
Pharmacia (Australia) Pty Ltd
St Ives Lions Club
Mr Don & Mrs Jean Wood

YOU CAN SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE BY BECOMING A GOVERNOR, ASSOCIATE GOVERNOR, MEMBER, ASSOCIATE MEMBER OR FRIEND:

GOVERNOR
Governors make a contribution of $7,500 or more a year. They are eligible for appointment to the Council and, therefore, to direct and control the affairs of the Institute.

ASSOCIATE GOVERNOR
Associate Governors make a contribution of at least $3,000 a year, may be eligible for appointment to the Council (up to 5 Associate Governors on Council) and are entitled to attend and vote at all general meetings.

MEMBER
Members make a contribution of at least $1,500 a year, may be eligible for appointment to the Council (up to 2 Members on Council) and are entitled to attend and vote at all general meetings.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Associate Members contribute at least $500 a year, may be eligible for appointment to the Council (1 Associate Member on Council) and to attend all general meetings.

FRIENDS
All other donors are “Friends”. They are eligible to participate in general meetings and receive information on activities of the Institute.
Dr Mark Gillies and Mr Jason Stayt joined the Save Sight Institute at the beginning of the year. They have developed a laboratory model of blood vessels in the retina which they are using to develop treatments for retinal swelling, such as occurs in diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy is a leading cause of blindness in Australian adults. Dr Gillies’ research is relevant to the continuing development of the clinical applications of the Institute’s basic science research program.

Dr Michele Madigan and Dr Max Conway, in collaboration with Professor Billson, have been investigating less toxic therapies for the treatment and management of retinoblastoma in infants. Retinoblastoma is the commonest eye cancer in childhood. They have focused on a variety of promising substances, including vitamins and sodium butyrate, which are less toxic than chemotherapy. The principals emerging from their research are being applied by Professor Billson in collaboration with the Department of Ophthalmology’s Unit at the New Children’s Hospital and Dr Luciana Dalla Pozza of Paediatric Oncology, who are exploring ways to reduce the side effects of radiotherapy in small infants. This work has relevance to the future treatment of retinoblastoma in children.

The Institute's research into human retinal immunity and its influence on retinal diseases have continued to progress with the support of the Ben Cohen Family Settlement Trust. The laboratory aspects, funded by the NH&MRC (Dr Penfold, Provis and Billson) have provided new insights into the immune and neuronal constituents of retinal blood vessels which directly contribute to the understanding and treatment of retinal diseases. A new therapy for the leading cause of untreatable blindness in the elderly (macular degeneration or AMD) has received ethical approval (Drs Gillies, Billson, Penfold and Hunyor) and is now being trialled. Our Clinical research student Dr Joseph Gyory has submitted a thesis for his Master of Medicine degree based on these studies.

POST DOCTORAL FELLOW, 
DR CLAUDIA DIAZ, AT WORK IN 
THE OCULAR IMMUNOLOGY 
LABORATORY.

TECHNICAL OFFICER, 
TANIA BALIND, 
STUDYING 
HISTOPATHOLOGY OF 
AGING HUMAN EYES.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, 
JASON STAYT, 
WORKING ON THE 
BLOOD RETINAL 
BARRIER MODEL.
The Institute's Scientists are involved in a number of international projects. An investigation of the immune constituents of monkey retina is being conducted in collaboration with Professors Anita Hendrickson of Washington University and William Morton, Director the HIV Research Group in Seattle, Washington, USA.

In 1995, one of the Save Sight Institute's research projects (Drs Diaz, Provis, Penfold, Madigan and Bilston) provided detailed descriptions of immune cells of the human retina and cornea during normal development. The results were presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), Annual Meeting held in Florida, USA in May. These findings have major significance for the understanding of the retina and cornea in both the normal and diseased state. Furthermore, comparative studies provided some insight into the use of animal models for the study of normal ocular immunology.

Dr Kathy McClellan, of the Ocular Microbiology Research Laboratory and External Eye Disease Unit, is continuing research into the surface immunity of the eye and its role in ocular infection. Although with increasing age there is a greater susceptibility to eye infections due to age-related changes in the conjunctiva, results show that the infection rates in the older population are surprisingly low. This is due to protective antibody levels on the surface of the eye increasing with age. These antibodies ward off common bacteria. Dr McClellan is also studying the effects of contact lens wear on the immune defences of the outer eye. She has further studied a group of patients more at risk of eye infection and who should be cautious of wearing contact lenses.

The results of Associate Professor Paul Mitchell's Blue Mountains Eye Study, the first prospective survey of eye disease conducted in Australia, have recently been published revealing that 90% of blindness in Australians over 50 is due to age related macular degeneration. The Blue Mountains Eye study assessed the incidence of glaucoma in the community and found that half the people with the condition did not know they had it.

We have established a glaucoma research unit to learn the causes of glaucoma so as to improve its diagnosis and treatment.

The Save Sight Institute is heading a drug trial of Latanoprost, a new eye drop that holds great promise for the management of primary open angle glaucoma.


