Nidek’s imaging game-changer

The RS-330 RetinaScan DUO is set to bring surprising new functionality to the ophthalmic imaging field

The Australian launch of the new Nidek RetinaScan DUO, combined Optical Coherence Tomographer (OCT) and colour Fundus Camera, is fast approaching. It will be displayed for the first time at the RANZCO Annual Scientific Congress in Brisbane from November 22nd -25th. The RetinaScan DUO (RS-330) is the first OCT to combine a truly high resolution fundus camera and the high quality OCT that Nidek is renowned for. It is based on the currently available Nidek AFC-330 fundus camera, and produces excellent quality photos. It also has auto alignment and auto-capture technology for superior ease of use.

Many of the great features that we have come to expect from Nidek OCT's will be included in this new model, such as:

• 12mm x 9mm wide area scan
• Fast scan speed (50,000 A-scans per second)
• 4 micron resolution (digitally enhanced)
• 50 image averaging for low noise hi-res scans
• Wide 9mm x 9mm ganglion cell complex analysis
• 8 retinal scan patterns
• Anterior segment scans to 8mm width
• Cataract mode

There will be two models of RS-330 Duo to choose from: one with all the features mentioned above, and another which will have all of these features plus Fundus Auto Fluorescence (FAF).

Designs For Vision will be conducting "OCT Roadshow" events in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in mid to late November, and the RS-330 Duo will be on show. If you are interested please contact us (you may have already received an invitation). Places are limited so best to reply quickly to avoid disappointment.

This is a very exciting device for Nidek, and for Designs For Vision: there is a real buzz around the office! Pre-orders have already been taken, and customer deliveries are expected to begin in January.

OCT proves crucial in practice

A 40 year old female with high myopia (about 9D) presented to our practice for a routine contact lens aftercare. Her ocular history was also notable for having bilateral keratoconus and as a result of this condition she had corneal graft surgery performed on her right eye about 10 years earlier. The patient had been attending our practice since 2002 for her ongoing contact lens management and optometric care.

At this presentation, the patient was totally asymptomatic nor had she noticed any visual changes. Her visual acuities with her present contact lens correction were – as they had been for the previous 5 years – R and L 6/7.5. A dilated fundus examination initially revealed no abnormalities (in particular, there was no obvious sign of retinal detachment or pre-detachment disease in either eye). OCT of the right eye revealed a long-standing neurosensory retinal detachment inferiorly in the right eye (see enclosed picture). Central threshold visual field testing revealed a corresponding superior defect in the right eye.

The patient was subsequently referred to a retinal surgeon who treated the condition by scleral buckle. This case clearly demonstrates the value and importance of the OCT in clinical practice. Without the OCT, quite simply this sight threatening lesion may never have been detected.

Dr Richard Lindsay (Optometrist)

Dr Lindsay has not been paid or received inducements to endorse or comment on behalf of Nidek or DFV, and has never been a paid consultant or representative of Nidek or DFV.
NIDEK welcomes Australian partners

Nidek Factory Tour, Japan April 14

In conjunction with the World Ophthalmology Congress held in Tokyo members of the DFV management team were lucky enough to tour the Nidek manufacturing facility in Gamagori, Japan. The DFV team members were joined by Dr Mark McDonald and Mrs Ingrid McDonald from The South Coast of NSW.

*a brief view of Mt Fuji with the cherry blossom trees in full bloom as we rocketed past at 250km/h*

Gamagori is located 2 hours by bullet train south of Tokyo and we were lucky enough to coincide the trip with a brief view of Mt Fuji with the cherry blossom trees in full bloom as we rocketed past at 250km/h.

The team were welcomed with the full extent of Japanese hospitality on display with a formal tea ceremony, Ninja performance as well as toko drumming throughout the day.

We toured three of the manufacturing plants in the area and were able to witness first-hand the precision, quality and build construction of the Nidek products as well as have a sneak peak of some of the upcoming new products from Nidek that are to be introduced in the next few months.

There are several new products from Nidek due for release with the new combined OCT/Camera system, a portable handheld auto refractor, a micro-perimeter and a portable pattern scan laser due for release very soon. Nidek are also releasing new software to compliment the Nidek Cataract suite of the AL-Scan optical biometer, OPD3 aberrometer/topographer and the CEM530 specular microscopy. The new software will seamlessly integrate the data to give the cataract surgeon all the information needed for lens selection, aberration detail and the health of the endothelium in the one printout.

DFV in Armenia for Glaukos iStent

In September, Designs for Vision were invited to take two surgeons along to a clinical training session for the Glaukos iStent in Yerevan, Armenia.

The session was held right after ESCRS for surgeons who are interested in improving their implantation techniques and to see the new generation iStents which are in the final development phases.

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The stent is designed for patients who have mild to moderate glaucoma and are being treated with topical medications. It reduces the IOP whilst also ceasing the need to use medications and it can be performed as a standalone procedure or in conjunction with cataract surgery.

Surgeons Dr. Kerrie Meades and Dr. Daya Sharma, along with their DFV surgical specialist David Ma arrived in Yerevan at 3 am on the 18th of September for a two day training session where the surgeons had the opportunity to operate on over 40 patients, and implanting over 60 stents in the process spread out across the G1, G2 and the G3 suprachoroidal stents. All surgeries were attended by Glaukos Clinical Affairs Manager Tim McCaul and Dr. Lilit Voskanyan.

The surgeons all gave very positive feedback from the session. It has boosted overall confidence with use of the iStent and they are achieving great results from the product!

Speak to your local DFV surgical specialist about enrolling for a trip to Armenia.

More information about the iStent in Armenia: http://tinyurl.com/k2fx2lu
The XXIII ESCRS took place over 13-17 September 2014, at the ExCel Centre, London, United Kingdom.

DFV had 6 staff representatives attend this year’s London meeting. It appears this meeting is becoming more popular every year, with many local surgeons attending. There were presentations on many topics, some clearly more interesting than others based on attendance and all the sub specialities seemed to be covered. These included VitreoRetinal component, Corneal Cross Linking, Corneal & Refractive Surgery, Femto Cataract surgery, Cataract & Glaucoma surgery, etc. As always, there were many helpful hints on improving outcomes in all areas.

The standout for many was the ‘Birth of the IOL Museum’

The exhibition area was very colourful, with manufacturers and their wares on display. Delegates busily perused the hall with a hint of anticipation. The standout for many was the ‘Birth of the IOL Museum’.

 Appropriately, Rayner the only British manufacturer of IOLs and manufacturer of the world’s first IOL in 1949, sponsored the Museum which was housed in an original 1950’s London Routemaster bus.

Over a thousand delegates passed through the Museum which showed the evolution of the IOL and cataract surgery, noted all Rayner Medal Lecture winners, as well as a tribute to Harold Ridley.

We met with most of our suppliers and enjoyed good recognition for our efforts from all. Three new and exciting products were introduced to us and we expect to be releasing them in Australia and NZ in the coming months.

ESCRS /Euretina, London 2014

DFV staff member Aaron Speer has surprised everyone in the office by publishing his first novel - a vampire story set in Sydney!

Aaron says:

“I started the book in 2011, and it’s only just been released in September of this year, so a long, drawn out process. It was my love of the vampire fiction/mythology that encouraged me to start, and then the fact that no other Australian vampire story existed was the hook.

“The basic story is a young woman named Alex Hernley discovers that Sydney has been hiding a dark secret since the First Fleet. A revelation that challenges everything she knows, and threatens everyone she loves. The secret has remained so for a reason, and those who are charged with keeping it discover her knowledge. Alex is now a threat, and threats are silenced. Can Alex escape her fate? Or will she join those now forgotten, as the rest of Australia goes on, blissfully unaware of the dangers the night can hide”

“Some people like their houses with fences all around, others live in mansions, and some beneath the ground.”

It is currently available in paperback and ebook form on Amazon.
Founder’s View

DFV - Moments in our history

The technology revolution in ophthalmology began in earnest in the early 1970’s with the introduction of lasers, phacoemulsification, vitrectomy systems and computer driven devices such as auto refractors. Over the years since 1975 Designs for Vision and our associates have introduced a wide range of new technologies in Australia. In many instances we have been pioneers by the introduction and training of ophthalmologists and optometrists on the applications and use of these innovations. A brief outline is described below by decade.

1970 - 1980
- Autorefractive devices from Coherent (“Dioptron”) and Acuity Systems were introduced to the Australian market. We presented the Dioptron system which was an immediate success due to its small size and the accuracy it provided. The Acuity system was as big as a large refrigerator and although popular in the early stages the Dioptron quickly became the market leader.
- At the same time ‘Coherent’ manufactured the first argon lasers which were developed by Dr Christian Zwegge and Dr Hunter Little of Stanford University in Southern California. The writer travelled Australia with Dr Little, introducing the concept to ophthalmologists interested in retinal photoacogulation.
- Phacoemulsification was invented by Dr Charles Kelman and proposed removal of cataracts through a small incision. Unfortunately intraocular lenses were not able to be folded in those days and therefore it was necessary to open the wound after performing phaco surgery. The technique did not really become popular until small incision foldable lenses and capsulorhexis were introduced, and by this time the company ‘Cooper Vision’ had purchased ‘Cavitron’, the original manufacturer of phaco. Designs for Vision represented ‘Cooper Vision’ in the early days and therefore installed many of the first phacoemulsification systems in Australia.
- About the same time pars plana vitrectomy was invented by Professor Gerard Crock of Melbourne whose design engineer was coerced to the United States to continue the development of this concept. The early systems were either rotating or oscillating cutters with light, irrigation and suction in the same probe. This system had a number of problems but remained until such time as the ‘Ocutone’ from Berkley Bioengineering in California was introduced. Originally the Ocutone concept of making three incisions instead of one through the pars plana was thought to be the wrong way to go, however Dr Oscar O’Malley the inventor, and Dr Steve Charles of Memphis convinced the world of the advantages of this approach. The Ocutone system is still utilised today by the various vitreoretinal device manufacturers.
- Designs for Vision represented the original Ocutone and received training at Berkley Bioengineering with Dr Karl Weng the engineer who was building the early systems and with Dr Charles in surgery in Memphis, Tennessee. We installed and provided training on about 30 Ocutone systems in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malayasia.
- Unfortunately for Designs for Vision, Alcon purchased both Cooper Vision and Berkley Bioengineering and we lost both of these amazing products to this multinational company (DFV lost 50% of our business due to these acquisitions).

DFV PROFILE
Meet the people who are helping to build DFV's success

George Krokidis

Wow! I’ve been at Designs for Vision for 13 years. It feels like it’s been only a fraction of this.

My time in ophthalmics started as an orthoptist more than twenty years ago. As a practising Orthoptist I worked at many clinics and covered most areas of traditional orthoptics and ophthalmic assistance. Clinical work was reasonably satisfying, but I became restless and eager for different challenges in my working life.

When I began with DFV in 2001, I quickly realised that I had a lot to learn. To some degree that situation remains today and I’m continuing to learn.

DFV regularly attends international meetings and is involved with many leading and innovative suppliers. This keeps me and DFV at the forefront of new ophthalmic developments and cutting edge technologies.

This situation, diverse customers with their range of personalities and my DFV colleagues make my days interesting and most satisfying.

Outside DFV I love sports, in particular AFL, soccer and cricket.

This summer will be my 9th season representing Dennis Cricket Club in Northcote. As each season arrives I am discovering that my age is catching up with me and competing is becoming a little more difficult.

My 16 year old son, has started playing senior cricket and I really enjoy when we play in the same team. Hopefully I will still be playing when my 13 year old son starts playing senior cricket. My fondest cricket memories are taking a double hat-trick, scoring centuries with the bat and being a team member of the First XI (2012/13) in a triple premiership year for the club.

I have found striking similarities between my working life and my cricket. I enjoy both and hope to be involved at Designs for Vision for cricket for a long time to come. At cricket I consider myself to be an “all rounder” a batsman, bowler, fielder, even wicket keeper when required, but above all a real team player.

The “all rounder” situation also applies for me at Designs for Vision.

Over the years, I have dealt with both diagnostic and surgical products and assist our Customer Service Department and the Service Department when required.

During my 13+ years at Designs for Vision, I have been involved with the introduction of many new products and technologies. For example; Rayner and Hoya IOLs, Pentacam, Nidek OPD & OCT, confocal and specular microscopes, Catalys Femto cataract system, SMI toric alignment system, and more recently the iStent and DORC Eva Cataract and VR system.

Today my title is “Clinical Application Specialist”. My role is satisfying, diverse and the challenges change daily and sometimes hourly. My key responsibilities are to mentor, train and assist my DFV colleagues. Most importantly though, I support Ophthalmologists and associated staff by assisting with general enquiries as well as difficult cases and complex queries.

So what’s next?
There’s always something new.

Keep an eye out for Holos by Clarity and iOLAMD.

New faces at DFV

Helen Marsh - WA
I am really happy to be working with the guys from Designs for Vision – many of whom I have known through the optical industry for quite some time. It is a considerably steep learning curve for me, but I am excited by the challenge ahead!

I am now talking to Ophthalmologists, theatre nurses and hospital staff, after spending the majority of my working life in the contact lens world and previously detailing pharmaceuticals.

Amongst the Designs for Vision team, I have many highly experienced colleagues to help me on this new adventure. I hope that some of their expertise rubs off sometime soon!

Yana Macaulay - VIC
Based in Melbourne, I recently joined DFV as a surgical product specialist. What I enjoy most about my role is being able to assist surgeons and their practices achieve better patient outcomes. I’ve always had a keen interest in health, and eyes in particular. Even when studying physics at school, I found optics intriguing. One of my biggest challenges is coming to terms with our diverse and comprehensive product catalogue. I am grateful for the wealth of knowledge and the ongoing team support within our company.

George is based in our Melbourne office.