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# Programme Outline

## **Day 1: Saturday 10 February**

8:00am: **Registration** in level 0 Foyer, OGGB

9:00am: **Welcome & Greetings** in Lecture Theatre 098  
Mihi mihi: University of Auckland Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Stuart McCutcheon  
Professor Andrea Vincent and Fraser Alexander, Local  
Organising Committee  
Christina Fasser, President, Retina International

9:30am: **Keynote** in Lecture Theatre 098  
*Retinal Degenerations – A Clinical Overview*, Elise Héon  
**Sponsored by Retina Specialists**

10:00am: **Keynote** in Lecture Theatre 098  
*Progress in Therapy of Retinal Degeneration – The Who  
and the How*, Eric Pierce  
**Sponsored by The Omblor Trust**

10:30am: **Morning Tea** in Level 0 Foyer

11:00am: **Plenary 1: Genetics and Gene Therapy** in Lecture  
Theatre 098

1. *Clinical diagnosis in Inherited Retinal Diseases – clues  
to the genetic diagnosis*, Andrea Vincent
2. *Advances in Genetic Testing in Inherited Retinal  
Diseases*, Alex Hewitt
3. *Novel/non-coding causes of Inherited Retinal  
Diseases*, Eric Pierce
4. *Identifying patients for clinical trials/The logistics of  
undertaking a clinical trial*, Jean Bennett
5. *Progress and lessons learned from the UK Gene  
Therapy Trials*, Tom Edwards

1:00pm: **Lunch** in Level 0 Foyer

1:15pm: **Free Lunchtime Seminar** in Case Room 3  
*Beyond vision loss: international perspectives on vision  
rehabilitation policy*, The Blind Foundation

2:00pm: **Parallel Session 1**

**Session 1A: Clinical aspects of Retinal Degenerations** in Lecture Theatre OGGB4

1. *Prevalence and inheritance of Inherited Retinal Diseases – using databases as a tool*, Andrea Vincent
2. *Developing patient relevant outcomes in clinical trials*, Elise Héon
3. *Paediatric low vision and supportive services*, Shuan Dai
4. *Surgical considerations in Inherited Retinal Disease*, Tom Edwards
5. *Treatment possibilities*, Dan Chung (Spark Therapeutics)

**Session 1B: Clinical Aspect of AMD and other Maculopathies** in Lecture Theatre 098

1. *Treatment advancements in AMD*, Narme Deva
2. *Advances in Diabetic Eye Disease – clinical understanding and treatment*, Rachel Barnes
3. *Advances in Imaging in AMD diagnosis*, David Squirrell
4. *FRB/Patient Registries/Big Data role in evolving treatment regimens*, Mark Gillies
5. *AMD in NZ, statistics and advocacy to optimise treatment options*, Dianne Sharp

3:30pm: **Afternoon Tea** in Level 0 Foyer

4:00pm: **Plenary 2: Stem Cells and Research Challenges** in Lecture Theatre 098

1. *Stem Cell basics and using stem cells to model eye disease*, Alice Pébay
2. *CRISPR gene editing in Retinal Disease*, Alex Hewitt
3. *From treatment development to implementation – why is it taking so long*, Kent Small

5:30pm: **Day 1 Close**

6:30pm: **Conference Dinner** at the Pullman Hotel

## **Day 2: Sunday 11 February**

8:00am: **Registration** in level 0 Foyer, OGGB

9:00am: **Plenary 3: Scientific Breaking News** in Lecture Theatre 098

1. **Keynote:** *Current and Emerging Gene Therapies for Inherited Retinal Disease*, Professor Jean Bennett

**Sponsored by The Omblor Trust**

2. *ReNeuron Clinical Trial – Stem Cell base therapies*, Eric Pierce

3. *New understandings of AMD Pathogenesis*, Diane Sharp

4. *AMD therapeutic trials*, Mark Gillies

5. *Robotic surgery in Inherited Retinal Disease*, Tom Edwards

11:00am: **Morning Tea** in level 0 Foyer

11:30am: **Plenary 4: Artificial Vision** in Lecture Theatre 098

1. **Keynote:** *Artificial Vision – Past, Present and Future*, Tom Edwards

**Sponsored by Fraser and Christina Alexander**

2. *Bionic Vision Australia*, Penny Allen

3. *Argus 2 – the surgical procedure and clinical journey*, Thiran Jayasundera

1:00pm: **Lunch** in level 0 Foyer

1:15pm: **Quantum RLV Presentation** in Lecture Theatre OGGB4

*Latest Vision Aids and technology supporting independence*, Rob Drummond, Quantum RLV

2:00pm: **Parallel Session 2** (for Patients and Professionals)  
**Session 2A: Tools and training: Who can help now and into the future?** in Lecture Theatre OGGB4

1. *Low Vision Rehabilitation – Enhancing Visual Function*, Sandy Grant and Olga Brochner

2. *How will I read, how will I write, how will I communicate?* Matt Rudland

3. *Life without limits – how we enable people who are blind or have low vision to be self-reliant and live the life they choose*, The Blind Foundation

4. *Advanced and future technologies in blindness and low vision – what do we want and why?* Jonathan Mosen

**Session 2B: Independence and self-determination – are the barriers real?** in [Lecture Theatre OGGB5](#)

1. *Leadership in a sighted world*, Robert Greenberg

2. *Travelling with a sight loss – an interactive panel session*, Avril Daly, Fraser Alexander, Tony Haas and Zane Bartlett

3. *Parents' Perspectives*, Tim Corbett

4. *Learned in the law*, David Heaney QC

**Session 2C: Educational Session for Healthcare Professionals and Vision Scientists** in [Lecture Theatre 098](#)

Accredited course for early career and general medical practitioners, Optometrists, Occupational Therapists and Rehabilitation Professionals

1. *Syndromic Retinal Degenerations*, Elise Héon

2. *Surgery in Artificial Vision*, Penny Allen

3. *Diabetic Eye Disease – optimising vision in 2018*, Rachel Barnes

4. *Stem Cells*, Alice Pébay

5. *Advances in drug delivery to the retina*, Ilva Rupenthal

3:30pm: **Keynote** in [Lecture Theatre 098](#)  
*What Have We Learned?* Gerald Chader  
**Sponsored by The Omblor Trust**

4:20pm: **Closing Remarks** in [Lecture Theatre 098](#)  
Christina Fasser and Avril Daly, Retina International  
Fraser Alexander – convenor, Local Organising Committee  
Congress Handover – Icelandic Blind Society and Retina 2020 in Reykjavik

5:00pm: **Day 2 close**