Cataract surgery has evolved from a procedure devised to remove a cloudy lens to one that additionally aims to incorporate focusing solutions. Until recently, restoring clear distance vision was the main goal, and almost all patients required reading glasses after surgery. However, improved technology, techniques and increased patient expectations has meant patients may now opt for improved overall visual function i.e. for near and intermediate as well as distance visual tasks.

Multifocal Intraocular Lenses (MIOL’s) have been around for many years, but recently with improved designs and outcomes their popularity and usage has soared, from about 1% of cataract surgeries (2003) to 6% currently. Trends predict 20% usage by 2020. Several factors can influence visual results and patient satisfaction. Chief among these are glare and halos and reduced contrast sensitivity.

EXTENDED RANGE OF VISION WITH THE TECNIS SYMFONY IOL

In June 2013, the TECNIS Symfony IOL (Abbott Medical Optics, Santa Ana, USA) began its life as a trial IOL with the Auckland Eye research team. The remarkable outcomes achieved have received international attention and launched this IOL into the commercial market in a very short time.

The TECNIS Symfony IOL is a completely new concept in design. It is the first and only IOL that compensates for image-degrading chromatic aberration between shorter blue and longer red wavelengths. It has been reported that correction of chromatic aberration results in a sharper focus of light.1,2 The proprietary diffractive eschelette design cleverly incorporates a new way of focusing the incident light over a long interval rather than a fixed focal point, thereby expanding the depth of focus (Fig.1). This lens design therefore allows improved depth of focus, increased retinal image quality and reduced visual disturbances (glare and halos) compared with the design of traditional MIOL’s.

Continued over page...
Auckland Eye in joint venture with Eye Specialists, Whangarei

Auckland Eye and Eye Specialists Day-Surgery Eye Centre in Whangarei have formed a new partnership, making it the largest provider of private ophthalmic services in New Zealand.

Auckland Eye feels the partnership will benefit the Northland region by providing easier access to sub-specialty trained opthalmologists in areas such as neuro-ophthalmology, retinal disease and ocularplastics. The Northland community will be able to access these sub-specialties from Auckland Eye specialists now providing consultations in Whangarei.

Additionally, laser eye surgery services will now be available at Eye Specialists. Both the pre- and post-op consultations will be provided in Whangarei, so only one visit to Auckland is required for the procedure, performed at Auckland Eye’s dedicated laser suite.

Both practices also see the joint venture as an opportunity to share knowledge and continue working on a shared passion - to provide the highest standard of patient care. Over the past 8 years both practices have pursued, and been awarded, independent accreditation by the DAA group for quality of patient care.

Auckland Eye education update

2014 has been a terrific year of insight. We have had three wonderful and well-attended seminars at the plush Orakei Bay venue, focusing on a variety of different topics. It was great to see everyone who came to the most recent seminar in September where we had Dr’s David Pendergrast and Sue Ormonde talking about all things cornea.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all those that took the time to fill out our short survey regarding this years insight events. Your feedback has been invaluable in helping us to plan ahead for another enjoyable seminar series in 2015. There has been an overwhelming vote to repeat a similar off-site format next year, and we are more than happy to oblige with the events in 2015 being held again at Orakei Bay.

The evening insight seminars for optometrists have become increasingly popular, so please keep an eye out for your invite and RSVP quickly as registrations fill up fast! If you have any queries or further suggestions please email email@aucklandeye.co.nz.

Auckland Eye wins award for medical app

Auckland Eye won the top non-clinical prize at the New Zealand Private Surgical Hospitals Association (NZPSHA) biannual Leaders in Quality Awards on 11 September. The awards recognise excellence across 33 surgical facilities nationwide.

The first medical manual app in New Zealand, the Auckland Eye Manual is an ophthalmic diagnostic resource with a reference guide covering all sub-speciality eye diseases. Created by 14 leading eye surgeons, the manual was initially released in print in response to requests for assistance in clinical practice. The manual and app are now widely used by GP’s and optometrists, as well as by the University of Auckland as an educational tool for all fifth-year students.

Auckland Eye ophthalmologist Dr Sue Ormonde says, “Our expert team of eye specialists have worked hard to ensure it was a comprehensive reference for GPs and optometrists around the country. We are proud of our innovative approach to creating a user-friendly app that helps the diagnosis of eye disorders all over New Zealand.”

The Auckland Eye Manual app is free and you can download it on IOS and Android devices.

**Fig. 1**

**Fig. 2**

**Fig. 3**
At dawn on October 9th it was our privilege and honour to welcome the Ngāti Whātau Ōrākei Elders and Kaumatua to Auckland Eye to perform a karakia (blessing) for our new building. The ceremony was followed by a group breakfast and some words by the Elders, and staff of Auckland Eye. It was a very special occasion and we look forward to our ongoing relationship with the Ngāti Whātau in the years to come.

The rebuild so far... We are very pleased to say the Auckland Eye refurbishment project is well underway with considerable progress having been made in the few short months since demolition day. We are making every effort in keeping construction disturbance as small as possible so as not to affect the quality of care. Thank you very much for your ongoing patience in this regard and we can’t wait to show you the new and improved premises in 2015.

In brief:

- Dr Archie McGeorge is consulting at Fred Thomas Health in Takapuna. Contact: (09) 486 EYES
- We are still recruiting for the AMO cataract study. All enquiries to May at research@aucklandeye.co.nz