

Dr Ryan Hadaway

Grace Vision Trainee Newsletter

Somehow, it's halfway through the year. Before we begin, thank you again for your support! Your support has assisted me in attending some big milestones in my training career, for which I am incredibly grateful. These include: the annual South African Glaucoma Symposium in Ballito; the Manual Small Incision Cataract Course in Cape Town; getting to and from Johannesburg to write Part 2 of my Diploma in Ophthalmology.

DMEI Outreach "Cornea Week" 11-17 May

Two Attendings and three Residents from the (DMEI) Dean McGee Eye Institute (Oklahoma, U.S.A.) joined us for a week, bringing with them their expertise and corneal grafts from an approved tissue bank.

The three surgical days focused on: corneal grafting (totaling 15 corneal transplants); strabismus surgery; cataract surgery. There were various corneal pathologies for grafting, however the vast majority of cases were secondary to keratoconus progression. Two local children with squints had corrective strabismus surgery. The team were incredibly willing to teach and allowed me to assist and then perform two medial rectus recessions in two eyes – a surreal moment in my journey so far.



The clinical days brought record numbers of patients to Grace Vision. On Wednesday 15 May over 75 patients walked through the clinic's doors! Despite the busy clinics, an emphasis on teaching was maintained, sharing clinical pearls from opposite sides of the world. The week closed with an academic afternoon and seminar. The DMEI team members covered topics of interest and their specific specialty.

A massive amount of behind-the-scenes work is required for a week like this to go as smoothly as it did, with countless people of the team contributing and enabling such a positive and impactful outreach.

Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery 24-26 May

I attended the Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery Course (MSICS) course run by Dr. Pons in Cape Town. The course was held at the University of Cape Town's Ophthalmological Skills Laboratory within Groote Schuur Hospital. The three-day course provides a very practical approach to learning cataract surgery. Various different models were used throughout the course, from apples to specialized training eyes and the "Eyesi" surgical training simulator.

I have immense respect for this surgical technique itself and the millions of patients it has helped. The skills and knowledge I learnt from this course make it an absolute essential course, aiding me to continue my journey in cataract surgery in a safer and more confident way.

1st Cataract list at GV 22 April

A momentous occasion for Grace Vision as 5 cataract surgeries were performed by Dr Pons in the Grace Vision Procedure room. This marks the 11th independent cataract surgery service that has been set up by Dr.Pons in his career. The next proposed date for cataract surgery at Grace is in July this year.

DipOphth Part 2 11 June

On 11 June 2024, I wrote the second portion of my diploma in Ophthalmology in Johannesburg on 11 June. I flew directly from Cape Town after the MSICS course to Johannesburg to write the exam a few days later. I am currently awaiting results but feel positive about how the examination went.



South African Glaucoma Symposium 24-26 May

This was the first medical symposium I have ever attended. The symposium was incredibly informative and “eye” opening. It was a privilege to learn from and meet some of South Africa’s most accomplished ophthalmologists.

The symposium consisted of three days – one day of workshops and two days of seminars and discussions. Dr. Pons presented in the opening day and ran a station at the glaucoma surgery workshop focusing on Gonio Assisted Transluminal Trabeculotomy (GATT). We were able to attend other workshop stations including “Kahook blade” goniotomy and assistive devices. The seminars were facilitated by both local and international specialists in the field of glaucoma.

The symposium provided both local and international perspectives and the debates that followed were encouraging. A personal highlight for me was networking with fellow young and budding ophthalmologists and associated organizations. The registrars I met were able to give me invaluable advice that will help me progress in my journey.

Corneal Crosslinking

On 17 June 2024, Grace Vision orchestrated and ran, to our knowledge, Eswatini’s first corneal crosslinking service. This procedure is aimed at slowing down and halting the progressive corneal pathology of keratoconus. A corneal crosslinking provider in Durban joined us for the day, bringing her expertise and the portable crosslinking device.

The day went well overall with four patients receiving treatment. This procedure is common practice in the first world and has significantly decreased the need for corneal grafting due to keratoconus, while in third world countries, this procedure is still unavailable to the vast majority. We see this as the start to making crosslinking available to our patients suffering from this condition and are excited to offer more crosslinking services in the future!

