

Svetlana Cherepanoff

Award/Grant Received: Travel Grant

Year Received: 2012

Amount: \$5800

Purpose of Travel: Ophthalmic pathology subspecialty training at Wills Eye Institute, Philadelphia, USA

Relevance/Utility: There is no internationally recognised centre for eye pathology in Australia. Training with Ralph Eagle Jnr, Director of Pathology at Wills Eye was a career defining experience. It allowed me to see the how pathology integrated with an ophthalmic oncology service at one of the leading ophthalmic surgical institutions in North America. I reported every case that came in over 6 weeks together with Dr Eagle. The volume of cases and the range could not be replicated anywhere in the Asia Pacific region. The mentoring relationship I was able to form with Dr Eagle means I have someone to consult when difficult cases arrive!

Impact: The training I received gave me the confidence to pursue an eye pathology diagnostic practice in Australia. I was appointed consultant pathologist and senior research fellow at Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney on my return. I am currently working with the clinicians and scientists on my campus to continue building diagnostic and research eye pathology expertise. This year, we started ophthalmic oncology multidisciplinary meetings, a first for NSW. I have since formed the ophthalmic pathology research unit at Save Sight Institute, which I co-lead with A/Prof Michele Madigan. Our unit collaborates across research groups on our campus to provide tissue and fluid pathology expertise. Dr Eagle's extraordinary track record as a teacher inspired me to take up a 0.1FTE teaching position at the University of Sydney, where I teach the Masters of Ophthalmic Science program and co-lead the Short Course in Ophthalmic Pathology. The extraordinary commitment to teaching I experienced at Wills Eye also inspired me to accept a position on the board of examiners in pathology for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists.