**Professor Robyn Jamieson**

**Clinical Geneticist (HGSA), Eye Genetics Research Unit Head, Children’s Medical Research Institute, Professor of Genomic Medicine, University of Sydney**

**Children’s Medical Research Institute**

Imagine a family, whose mother has already gone blind thanks to a particular gene that she carries, and then discovering that her three children carry the same gene and are predestined to all become completely blind before they reach the age of 20, if nothing is done.

Our next award recipient, Clinical Geneticist Professor Robyn Jamieson has discovered the genetic cause of this disease that is devastating the White family, just up the road from her laboratory in Westmead. She is using cutting edge gene therapy in a race against time to help them. Robyn is the only researcher in the world working on this cure and will not rest until it can be found.

Dr Robyn Jamieson heads Eye Genetics Clinics at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead and Westmead Adult Hospital. She is also Director of the Western Sydney Genetics Program at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, and Head, Discipline of Genetic Medicine, University of Sydney. She runs a leading research team in ocular genetics, genomics and disease mechanisms which is internationally recognized.

Since 2011, her group has been responsible for identification and characterisation of over 40 previously unknown genetic variants in 31 different genes, two novel disease genes, two novel animal models, and development of a 3D cellular model system.

This has led to 23 peer-reviewed publications ranging across a number of areas including ophthalmology, genetics, and cell and developmental biology.

She received a National Health and Medical Research Council Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellowship and an Royal Australasian College of Physicians Travelling Fellowship to undertake postdoctoral research in genomics and disease. In 2017 Professor Jamieson was promoted to a personal chair as Professor of Genomic Medicine, University of Sydney.

Her pioneering work covers not only a search for the cause of disease but also the treatment and cure. She is internationally known, yet she has directly supported more than 50 local families with previously unidentified diseases.

In recognition of her steadfast dedication to her field, as she commits her life and all her professional resources and capabilities towards curing blindness in the White family and countless other families around the world, using the most advanced scientific insights and breakthroughs, Rotary District 9685 is most honoured to recognise Professor Robyn Jamieson with this 2018 Vocational Excellence Award