



ATLANTIC EYE
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Date Release:

28 October 2025

PRESS RELEASE

AERF Partners with Groote Schuur Hospital Trust to Deliver Sight-Saving Eye Surgeries in Cape Town

Thanks to funding from the Atlantic Eye Research Foundation, the Groote Schuur Hospital Trust successfully conducted two full-day surgical lists on October 10 and 24, 2025, providing life-changing eye surgeries to patients facing progressive, blinding eye conditions.

Over the two days, a total of eight complex procedures were performed by Dr James Rice, Head of Vitreoretinal Services at the University of Cape Town and young fellow, Dr Thabang Morris. The patients presented advanced proliferative diabetic eye disease, retinal detachment, and severe eye inflammation – conditions that, without intervention, would likely have led to irreversible blindness.

Of the **eight patients** treated:

- Four were diabetic with advanced eye disease; two required surgery on their only remaining useful eye.
- One young diabetic patient of working age received surgery that prevented progressive visual loss from retinal scarring.
- Two patients underwent retinal detachment surgery, one involving their only functional eye.
- Two others received treatment for severe eye inflammation, helping preserve their remaining vision.

“The eye conditions we treat with surgery are commonly progressive and blinding without intervention. We are grateful for financial support which enables the preservation of sight” said Dr James Rice.

These surgeries are often the difference between blindness and continued independence for patients. The foundation’s support underscores the critical role of philanthropic funding in addressing preventable blindness and expanding access to quality eye care in South Africa.

For more information or to contribute to future initiatives, contact us below:



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