Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016. With the new year has come a big period of transition for ORLAB.

The News

Following 40 years of distinguished service to academia and the development of the university, including at ORLAB, Emeritus Professor Stephen Dain has stepped down as Director, and continues in ORLAB in a consultant capacity to the new managerial team, Dr Mei Ying Boon, Director, and Dr Maitreyee Roy, Deputy Director.

Dr Mei Ying Boon brings to ORLAB 23 years of experience in optometry and research. She is a lecturer in the School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW Australia, where she is responsible for the teaching of optical dispensing, development and ageing of the visual system, the assessment and rehabilitation of people with visual impairment. Dr Boon is a member of Standards Australia Committee MS-024 Spectacles. For those who look at the research publications that we have listed in the newsletter, her name will already be familiar. She will be most closely involved with the eye protection, sunglass and ophthalmic testing.

https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-me yi-ying-boon

Dr. Maitreyee Roy is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW, Australia. She is responsible for teaching geometric, physical and visual optics. Dr Roy is an accomplished optical physicist with broad experience in NATA accredited government research labs and academic institutions. She has a R&D background in optical metrology, 3D optical imaging and nanoparticle metrology. Dr Roy has published numerous articles in optics journals. She holds memberships with optical societies nationally and internationally, notably OSA, SPIE, AOS and AMMS and serves as a reviewer of optics journals. As a Research Scientist at the National Measurement Institute in Sydney, she was responsible in establishing and maintaining the facility’s optical and nanoparticle standards capabilities that are crucial for the delivery of measurement services to the industry partners, government institutions and the broader research community. Dr Roy brings 18 years of experience in optical research, calibration, standards verification and measurement to ORLAB. Her experience and links with industry and research will facilitate relationships with existing and new ORLAB stakeholders, industry and research partners.

https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-maitreyee-roy

ORLAB has grown in expertise and manpower. We are set up to continue to provide you with quality service as expected for a NATA accredited laboratory.
A word from Emeritus Professor Stephen Dain

On 12 February 1976 a much younger person signed in as a lecturer in the, then, Department of Optometry, School of Applied Physics and Optometry, UNSW. I was given 16 hours a week teaching and told that I needed to join an existing research group (none were appealing) or fund my own research. Without any real design or planning, ORLAB happened, starting with John Higginson of Protector Safety asking Colin Minter of Standards Australia if the university could do their testing. While some grants were obtained, the bulk of the equipment needed for my research was bought because ORLAB also needed it or from the ORLAB profits. ORLAB never advertised, all the work came through word of mouth. It has grown through responding to industry’s needs not through any grand design on my part.

“Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans.” Allen Saunders, 1957.

After 40 years it is appropriate to hand over the reins (not being willing to keep going to 50 years or age 80). I have every confidence that the usefulness of ORLAB to industry will be extended and the usefulness of ORLAB to the research of Mei and Maitreyee be as it was for me. For the moment I am working one day per week to assist the transition. Gradually, the rest of the staff will take over all my duties.


Current Research Projects
Boon, Dain: The effects of luminance on the performance of two computerised colour vision tests
Dain, Swarbrick, Ho: Ultraviolet protection in contact lenses.
Pye, Dain, Roy: Does water content determine the thickness of the human cornea?
Roy, Boon, Dain: Blue blocking lenses and colour vision

Research publications *(reprints available on request)*


The new website

The new website is now live. It still needs some attention but it is an improvement! It does have an enquiry form.

http://www.orlab.optometry.unsw.edu.au