



Letter from the President Patricia Quinlan

Dear All,

Welcome to the summer edition of the ICO newsletter and I hope you are keeping safe and well.

The past few months has thrown our society and health care system into the most challenging of times. I am deeply aware that we will continue to navigate the impact of coronavirus for some time to come. I want to personally thank all our doctors who participated in the ICO members' discussion forum as we adjusted to the early days and weeks of these uncharted times, and gave of their time to help provide support and guidance to their colleagues.

It is with regret that the College had to announce the postponement of our Annual Conference this year. In the interests of the health and safety of all and the uncertainty surrounding the virus both in Ireland and globally, we know this was the correct decision to make.

I am pleased to report that we intend to gather in Kilkenny for our 2021 meeting and to roll forward, to the greatest extent possible, the excellent

line up of speakers and chosen symposia topics from the 2020 Scientific Programme for next year's gathering. Thank you to John Doris for all your work in this regard.

At our Council meeting on July 11, the newly elected members of Council were formally announced and I am delighted to welcome Colm O'Brien, Mairide McGuire and Caroline Baily to the Board. I have no doubt their influence and contribution will be of enormous benefit to the College. It is very important to me that every College member has ready access to Council and that the voices of all members can be heard and represented. As we adapt our work practices due to COVID-19, the College plans to undertake a comprehensive, membership wide consultation process in the autumn, in our commitment to ensuring the various types of practices have the opportunity to communicate their needs and active involvement in College discussions.

I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Marie Hickey Dwyer whose time on Council has concluded. Marie has given her unwavering support, time and energy to the work and vision of the College and we are truly grateful for her dedication. Her influence will continue to be of the upmost importance.

As a registered charity, the ICO must ensure its compliance with the Charities Governance Code by the close of 2020. This is the first year it is mandatory for Charities to demonstrate their compliance.

There is much work already underway by the ICO in this regard. It is essential we examine the full operations of the College as a charitable entity, and ensure full compliance of the

Governance Code. The College is engaging with a governance expert on this matter, who will facilitate a workshop for our Council in September.



We have some features in this edition that date back to late 2019 / early 2020 due to the postponement of the spring edition. We hope you enjoy reading the updates, and we will continue to share news through our portal. The continued development of online learning resources on our members' portal is a priority for the College and we are encouraged to see the extensive uptake and use of the facility in its second year of development.

Plans are under way for the autumn educational programme, including the continuation of our integrated eye care team meeting series in collaboration with the Clinical Programme and HSE, the ICO Winter Meeting, Annual Montgomery Lecture and Online Symposium.

The resilience and sense of community drawn out during these difficult times will no doubt have a lasting effect, with greater urgency on developing new ways of working towards solutions. I am confident and determined that we will go from strength to strength developing our work on behalf of patients and doctors at the College and for the future of our specialty.

With warmest regards,
PATRICIA QUINLAN



Published by:
**Irish College of
Ophthalmologists**
121 St Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.
Tel 01 402 2777
e: info@eyedoctors.ie
w: www.eyedoctors.ie
t: @eyedoctorsirl

If you would like to make any suggestions for future issues of the College Newsletter please contact
Siobhan on
siobhan.kelly@eyedoctors.ie

ICO Members Consultation

It is the intention of the ICO to undertake a comprehensive consultation process with our entire membership base over the coming months.

Following recent feedback and discussions at our Council meetings, and with an acute awareness of the many challenges the pandemic has brought to all our practices, now is a very important time to hear directly from all our members.

We are cognisant of the rapid changes to the various forms of practices across the speciality, and our aim is to ensure that every member has the opportunity to have meaningful dialogue with the College and that we as an organisation are responding to the evolving and demanding changes which are being felt by you all at this time.

It is crucial that this is a two-way learning process for our College, one in which we endeavour to hear the voices of all members, and that the College works towards the achievements of set goals and recommendations as a result, converting valuable insights into practice.

The first stage of the consultation process will be conducted via an anonymised survey, followed by further engagement as the priorities are identified.

The main purpose of the ICO membership consultation process will be to:

Learn – To help us understand member's needs, from across the various forms of practice

Inform – To help us shape the College agenda for the immediate and long-term future

Grow – To help us determine the best path forward to ensure the continuing relevance of the ICO

The timing of this consultation work coincides with the College's review of our practices and our obligations as a charitable organisation. The feedback from our members will be informative and of great benefit as we undertake a comprehensive review of our responsibilities under the Charities Governance Code by the close of 2020. It is essential to review and evaluate our current practices and look to plan ahead for the next phase of our work.

Our aim is to develop and grow the College, aided by an empowered membership base and working towards the growth and expansion of our speciality for the benefit of patient care and service delivery.

The positive outcomes of our collaborative efforts as a College entity are evident in the significant achievements for the speciality in recent years. This includes the development of the standalone national training programme in medical ophthalmology, the approval of Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist posts and our work with the Clinical Programme and HSE in developing the integrated eye care model across community and hospital care, in line with the key recommendations contained in the HSE Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report and Model of Care document.

College President Patricia Quinlan will review the feedback from the consultation process and identify key priorities and the most pressing issues for the College to progress. Please take a moment of your time to complete the survey, your opinion is very important.

We are excited to enter this next phase of development for the College and its members. We thank you for your continued support and commitment to the enhancement of the speciality.

Charities Governance Code

As a registered charity, the ICO must ensure its compliance with the Charities Governance Code by the close of 2020. This is the first year it is mandatory for Charities to demonstrate their compliance.

The Charities Governance Code explains the minimum standards charities should meet to effectively manage and control their activities. Good governance involves putting in place systems and processes to ensure that a charity achieves its charitable objectives with integrity and is managed in an effective, efficient, accountable and transparent way.

Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Ophthalmology 2021-26



Mr Frank Larkin, Consultant at Moorfields Eye Hospital and Professor at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology pictured presenting the 2016 Annual Montgomery Lecture in Trinity College Dublin.

BMJ Publications have appointed Mr Frank Larkin, Consultant at Moorfields Eye Hospital London and Professor at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, as Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Ophthalmology 2021-2026.

Speaking about the appointment, Mr Larkin said, "I took responsibility in full from April 2020. For me it will be a step back into the wider field, having worked almost exclusively on the anterior segment of the eye for 25 years or more. However, subspecialisation on that level has been the norm in major ophthalmology centres for some time.

I will be supported by Ludwig Heindl (Cologne) and Mingguang He (Melbourne/Guangzhou) as deputy editors. Up until April 2020, the BJO continued to be led by a trio of joint editors-in-chief, including my Moorfields colleague and QUB graduate Keith Barton, so there is an existing Irish connection and I do hope not to have to work three times as hard as Keith! Ophthalmology has come to the forefront in that as we are leading the medical specialties in applications of artificial intelligence and cell and gene therapies. It's an exciting time to take the helm of an eye journal."

The ICO extend our congratulation to Frank, who was the Montgomery Lecturer in 2016 and wish him every success in the role at the Journal.

ICO Micro-surgical Simulation Skills Courses in Phaco and Anterior Vitrectomy

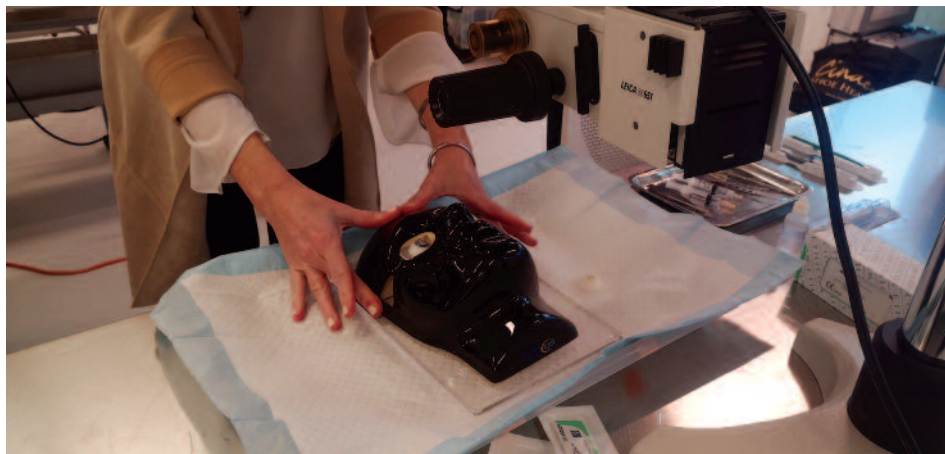
On January 25th and 27th, the Irish College of Ophthalmologists held high level, intensive courses on phacoemulsification and anterior vitrectomy skills at the surgical simulation laboratories located at the National Clinical and Surgical Training Suite in the RCSI at 26 York Street.

The introduction of the courses for the first time in 2019 marked an important step up in postgraduate ophthalmic training in Ireland, and represented the first time a dedicated surgical simulation-based course in phacoemulsification and anterior vitrectomy skills has been facilitated here in Ireland.

The courses signify a considerable investment and commitment by the ICO in ensuring trainees have access to the very latest in micro-surgical skills training and simulation learning through the utilisation of the state-of-the-art facilities now available in Ireland at the new RCSI unit.

A successful application for development funding for this training initiative was made by the ICO to the HSE National Doctors Training Programme without which the training courses could not have taken place.

The aim of the phacoemulsification course, designed for Year 1 specialty trainees in ophthalmic surgery, was centred on the instruction of basic principles of phacoemulsification surgery. The learning objectives included an understanding of each step of phacoemulsification surgery as well as the performance of all procedural steps in a simulated environment with the use of simulated eyes especially designed for dry laboratory surgical training but with the use of phacoemulsification machines and instruments and microscopes as per 'real life'. Special technical skills stations were dedicated to corneal suturing, ACCC retrieval or the



'Little technique' and IOL implantation.

The anterior vitrectomy course, designed for Year 3 specialty trainees in ophthalmic surgery, focused on the instruction of the basic principles of anterior vitrectomy in the setting of complicated phacoemulsification surgery. The acquirement of these skills in the last year of basic surgical training and prior to entering higher surgical training is essential. The learning objectives of the course included an understanding as well as the performance in a simulated environment of all procedural steps of anterior vitrectomy. The ICO were delighted to welcome Mr Larry Benjamin, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Chair of the Education Committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London who provided excellent didactic teaching on anterior vitrectomy techniques and dealing with complications in cataract surgery.

The ICO would like to thank Alcon for the supply of their phacoemulsification machines as well as the relevant consumables, OVDs, lenses and microscopes over the two days of training. We also wish to thank John Bannon for the supply of all surgical instruments used over the two courses. We are also grateful to Rayner and Hoya who both supplied intraocular lenses for the IOL stations and additional to Rayner for the generous supply of OVDs for use on both days of the course. M.E.D Surgical also kindly supplied a Zeiss operating microscope for use in the simulated operating theatre without which the OR simulations would not have been possible.

The College would like to sincerely acknowledge the invaluable contribution from the course facilitators Patrick Talty, Paul Connell, Caroline Bailey and Conall Hurley and Dr Eva Doherty, RCSI Director of Human Factors and Patient Safety, for their time and training expertise during the two days as well as Denis Ga'an and Roderick Mandani, theatre nurses, for their onsite training and assistance. The College also wish to thank and acknowledge the enormous work of ICO Dean Yvonne Delaney for her coordination and direction of the courses over the two days. Michelle Scott, Rebecca Kirrane and all the simulation team at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland also provided invaluable support to the College especially in the preparation stages of both courses.



ICO/Novartis Eye Research Bursary 2020

Dr. Emily Greenan, PhD and Clinical Tutor in Ophthalmology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Dr. Aisling Naylor, Research Fellow at Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, were awarded joint recipients of the ICO/Novartis Eye Research Bursary 2020. The announcement was made at the ICO Winter Meeting. The annual ICO/Novartis research bursary is an unrestricted educational grant awarded to a doctor who wishes to undertake a research project or specific training in the field of ophthalmology.

Emily Greenan's project is aimed at establishing a two and three-dimensional model of inflammatory dry eye disease to test novel therapeutics using primary human conjunctival epithelial cells. Emily was the recipient of the Bursary in 2018/19 for her research in the area of targeting ocular inflammation in dry eye disease with novel microRNA-based therapeutics.

The research is being carried out between the facilities at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, under the supervision of Conor Murphy, Professor of Ophthalmology, RVEEH and Joan Ní Gabhann-Dromgoole, Lecturer in Ophthalmology and Immunology, RCSI. The project forms the basis of Emily's PhD thesis to demonstrate that modulation of the microRNA profile can reduce pro-inflammatory cytokines and restore homeostasis to the ocular surface in a variety of dry eye disease disorders beyond primary Sjogren's syndrome, which has been the focus of the research to date.

Explaining the rationale of the study and the significance of the being awarded funding for her project, Emily said, "The funding support from the ICO/Novartis Bursary has been instrumental in supporting our focus which is to address the unmet needs in dry eye disease, and specifically to identify novel biomarkers and develop diagnostics. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the ICO and Novartis for their continued support in our exploration of a range of common and rare conditions in which inflammation plays a key role in the development of dry eye disease."

Aisling Naylor, joint recipient of the ICO/Novartis Bursary 2020, is undertaking the Irish Retinal Circadian



Pictured at the official announcement of the ICO/Novartis Eye Research Bursary 2020 are joint winners Dr Emily Greenan (2nd left), Phd and Clinical Tutor, Ophthalmology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Dr Aisling Naylor (3rd left), Research Fellow at Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital with (L-R) John Doris, Chair of ICO Scientific Committee, Yvonne Delaney, ICO Dean of Postgraduate Education, Patricia Quinlan, ICO President, Dr Fiona Flynn Smith, Medical Affairs, Novartis Ireland and Laura O'Callaghan, Associate Brand Manager, Novartis.

Project entitled "Circadian regulation of the retinal vasculature: A paradigm for geographic atrophy development". The study is investigating Dry Age-related Macular Degeneration, one of the leading causes of vision loss in Ireland.

Aisling's research is being carried out between the facilities of the Neurovascular Genetics Laboratory, Smurfit Institute, Trinity College Dublin, the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Progressive Vision in Beacon Court, under the supervision of Mark Cahill, Consultant Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

The research will be central to the continuation of an on-going clinical research project which has identified that the inner blood retina barrier (iBRB) is highly dynamic and may play an early role in AMD pathobiology. Specifically related to Dr Naylor's project is the goal to now assess circadian iBRB regulation in patients with dry age-related macular denegation (AMD) and age-matched controls.

Commenting on her award, Aisling said, "I am delighted to be co-recipient of funding for this year's ICO/Novartis Eye Research Bursary Award which will enable the continuation of this important clinical research into AMD, the leading cause of central retinal vision loss worldwide. In

gaining an understanding of circadian regulation of the iBRB in a clinical setting in human subjects, our goal is to be positioned to make profound conclusions on its role in AMD pathophysiology, aiding our understanding of GA pathophysiology and potentially, in the future, development of therapeutic strategies to treat the condition.

Speaking at the announcement, Patricia Quinlan, ICO President said, "We are delighted to congratulate both Emily and Aisling on their respective winning research projects. The ICO thank Novartis for their continued support. We look forward to hearing updates on this exciting research work at ICO Annual Conference in May 2021."

Dr. Bishember Kathuria, Chief Scientific Officer, Novartis Ireland Ltd said, "Novartis strongly believes that no one should have to wait for access to better health. In living our mission, we are proud to partner with the Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO) to fund this bursary that supports research and education in ophthalmology in Ireland. As in previous years, this year's entries were again of a very high calibre. I would like to congratulate Dr. Emily Greenan and Dr. Aisling Naylor on winning the 2020 ICO/Novartis Bursary and wish them well in their future careers."

ICO / RCOphth Joint Meeting



ICO President Patricia Quinlan (centre) is pictured at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists with meeting organiser Miss Julie Silvestri, Clinical Director for Ophthalmic Services at the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and David Keegan, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Dublin.

The meeting took place on Friday 7th February at Queen's University Belfast and included case presentations from Dr Michael Williams, Clinical Senior Lecturer at Queens University Belfast on Medical Retina and Uveitis, Prof Colin E Willoughby, Professor of

Ophthalmology, Ulster University on Glaucoma and Motility, Professor Stephen Kaye, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Liverpool, on Infections of the Ocular Surface and from Prof David Keegan

and Miss Julie Silvestri, on Ophthalmic Genetics.

A keynote lecture on the topic 'What has the NIHR done for us?' was delivered by Professor Augusto Azura-Blanco, Clinical Professor at the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences Centre for Public Health at Queen's University Belfast.

The RISI (Retinal Imaging Society of Ireland) 2020 Meeting, chaired by David Keegan, took place that afternoon in the same venue. The programme included presentations and case reports and a presentation of the Larry Yannuzzi's Retina Atlas Prize for best Trainee contribution to Dr Gerard Reid, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

ICO Annual Conference - Postponement to 2021

The 2020 ICO Annual Conference has been postponed. While the College are very disappointed not to be able to meet together in 2020, we are very much looking forward to our 2021 Conference in the Kilkenny Convention Centre.

The conference will present a significant re-engagement opportunity for the ophthalmic community in Ireland, as we continue to reflect, understand and learn from the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus on our healthcare systems and our lives.

A full update on the Scientific Programme will be circulated to our members in the early new year. Thank you to our members and trainees who submitted abstracts for the 2020 meeting. The College will be in touch and the opportunity to update papers and posters will be available, and a call for abstracts will re-open in early 2021.



David Keegan; Ms Ciara McEvoy, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Belfast; Miss Julie Silvestri and Dr Michael Williams.

Montgomery Lecture 2019

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists was honoured to welcome Mr Paul Sullivan, Vitreo-retinal Surgeon and Director of Postgraduate Medical Education at Moorfields Eye Hospital, to present the 103rd Annual Montgomery Lecture on November 29.

Mr Sullivan's 2019 Montgomery Lecture entitled 'Technical Errors in Ophthalmic Surgery' took place in the beautiful surrounds of the original Anatomy Theatre, housed in The Chemistry Building at Trinity College Dublin, where Robert Montgomery and some of early Montgomery Lecturers taught.

A very special element of the occasion was a tour of the Anatomical Museum courtesy of Prof Martina Hennessey and Evi Numen, Medical Museum Curator & Archivist, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin, which provided a wonderful insight into the world of past anatomy and surgery professors. Their efforts, studies, and research over the span of three hundred years are represented by the collection of historical medical artefacts residing in the Trinity Anatomical Museum.



Mr Paul Sullivan, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Director of Education, Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust Foundation is pictured with Prof. Martina Hennessey, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin (left) and Patricia Quinlan, President of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists at the Annual Montgomery Lecture 2019

Guidance from the Medical Council Temporary Revised Framework for Recording of Professional Competence 2020/21

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Medical Council has temporarily revised the framework for recording Professional Competence in 2020/21 as below:

- 25 of the required 50 CPD credits will be considered as met from increased learnings during COVID-19 and you will not be required to record these with the ICO
- Of the 25 CPD credits remaining, you can record these credits in any CPD category (external, internal, personal, research/teaching) and the CPD targets for each category will not apply
- You will not be required to record a Clinical/Practice Audit with the ICO

The temporary revision to the framework relates to the recording of credits. The PCS requirement for 50 CPD credits remains unchanged, 25 of which is being considered as met through your increased learning during COVID-19.

Doctors will be asked to make a declaration about their maintenance of professional competence during the 2021 annual retention process.

These 2020/21 CPD requirements will be kept under review by the Medical Council in the case of a prolonged pandemic.

The ICO will let you know of any further updates or you can visit the Medical Council website: <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/covid-19/>

PCS Uploads

The ICO directly uploads credits to your PCS Account for any activity that we have recorded your participation in.

That includes:

- ICO meetings, including the Virtual Discussion Forum and Committee meetings
- Postgraduate Teaching Programme organised by RVEEH
- The education modules available on the ICO Members' Portal – this will be an expanding area

With the move to making activities available online and through the Members' Portal, new methods for capturing and recording participation are needed. You may be asked to complete a survey to confirm the activities you have participated in. We will use this information to record the relevant CPD credits. Direct uploads by the ICO will sometimes occur a few days/weeks after the event, this is to allow everyone the opportunity to complete the surveys before the upload.

PCS Guides and Resources for ICO Members

The College would like to remind members of the guides and new template resources which have been developed to aid both understanding of the PCS requirements and to reduce the administrative burden of having to create documents to evidence activity.

Members can access these resources by logging in to the ICO membership portal and visiting the Professional Competence page.

Please contact Niamh Coen, ICO Professional Competence Scheme Manager at Niamh.coen@eyedoctors.ie if you have any questions.

Patient Safety (Notifiable patient Safety Incidents) Bill

On December 3rd last, the Government approved the publication by the former Minister for Health, Simon Harris, of the Patient Safety (Notifiable Patient Safety Incidents) Bill 2019. The Bill builds on the voluntary open disclosure procedures introduced in 2018 under the Civil Liability (Amendment) Act 2017.

It is not possible to predict the length of time that it will take the Bill to progress through the various legislative stages, as it can be influenced by a number of factors such as amendments and other priority legislation taking precedence.

The Patient Safety Bill is part of a programme of legislative changes and policy initiatives being taken by the Department of Health to improve the ability of the health service to anticipate, identify, respond to and manage patient safety issues.

This Bill provides for a number of patient safety priorities, including mandatory open disclosure of serious patient safety incidents. It also provides for the notification of those reportable incidents to the relevant regulator and the extension of the remit of HIQA to private hospitals.

Under the proposed legislation, notification of the listed serious patient safety incidents must be made externally to the Health Information and Quality Authority, the Chief Inspector of Social Services, and the Mental Health

Commission to contribute to national patient safety learning and improvement.

The Bill provides that where a health services provider was satisfied that a notifiable patient safety incident had occurred, whether the incident occurred within their service or during the provision of a service by another health services provider, a disclosure must be made to the patient or their relevant person – in most cases a family member – with regard to the information known to the health services provider at that time.

The Patient Safety Bill lists several patient safety incidents that will be subject to mandatory open disclosure. The Bill includes a new process by which the Minister for Health will designate other patient safety incidents for which mandatory open disclosure must also occur.

The Medical Protection Society said a “cultural shift” is needed to properly prepare doctors for the introduction of mandatory open disclosure and that the Government need to address culture barriers to openness in healthcare with

the introduction of new open disclosure legislation.

A recent survey of almost 500 doctors by MPS reveals significant levels of concern and a lack of awareness among doctors about the proposed changes.

More than 70 per cent of doctors were not aware that the meaning of an apology made where a clinical error occurs has been legally protected in Ireland since 2018. Half of those surveyed thought better support from managers would encourage openness in healthcare, while 47 per cent were fearful of being sued or receiving a complaint.

Nearly 30 per cent of doctors said they were not sure whether or not to apologise to a patient.

One in five doctors said they had been in a situation where they had felt unable to apologise even though there was an expectation from the patient. Of this group, 42 per cent were worried an apology would be an admission of liability.

MPS Medical Director Dr Rob Hendry said “clinicians need to be in an environment where they feel empowered and confident to admit errors, apologise and learn from mistakes. This means no fear of blame or personal recrimination, genuine and visible support from leaders equally committed to the principles of open disclosure, and greater education on existing protections for doctors.”

Patient safety measures

The Bill is divided into eight parts, comprising of 54 sections. The key elements covering patient safety priorities include:

- Provisions for a robust framework for mandatory open disclosure
- Mandatory open disclosure of specified serious patient safety incidents, such as wrong site surgery or patient death. Where a notifiable patient safety incident occurs a disclosure must be made to the patient or other relevant person
- Option for the Minister to designate other patient safety incidents in line with advancements in clinical practice
- Procedures for open disclosure
- External notification of patient safety incidents to the regulator and other designated bodies
- Clinical audits
- Extending the remit of Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA) to private hospitals.

A Learning Module on Open Disclosure is available on the ICO Members Portal

RSCI Charter Day



Kathryn McCreery (2nd right), Chair of the Parallel Ophthalmology Session at the RCSI Charter Day 2020 on Friday March 14, is pictured with keynote speakers (l-r) Donal Brosnahan, Dara Kilmartin, Mr Sheaz Deya, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Center for Sight, West Sussex and Tim Fulcher.

Scope Ophthalmics Travel Bursary

The ICO wish to thank Scope Ophthalmics for their continued support through their annual sponsorship of an Educational and Travel Fund at the ICO Conference for the past three years. The prize is awarded for the best case submitted for the Medical Ophthalmologists workshop at the Annual Conference.

Fiona Kearns was awarded the prize at the 2019 Annual Conference. Past winners of the Bursary Margaret Morgan and Garry Treacy outline below how the fund assisted a most valuable educational opportunity.

Margaret Morgan, Recipient 2017

I was awarded the Scope Travel Bursary in 2017. I used the bursary to help fund attendance at the American Academy of Ophthalmology 2017 Annual Meeting in New Orleans in November 2017. The meeting began with a glaucoma subspecialty day and over the following three days I attended sessions and instruction courses on inflammatory eye disease, cornea, allergic eye disease,

medical retina, neuro-ophthalmology, ocular oncology and ocular imaging. The opportunity to attend this meeting, which is the world's most comprehensive ophthalmic meeting, was invaluable for my day to day practice in medical retina and general ophthalmology.

New Orleans is a very unique city located on the Mississippi river with a vibrant culture and distinctive architecture and it was a wonderful place to relax in the evenings and enjoy the music and cuisine.

Garry Treacy, Recipient 2018

I was presented with the Scope Travel Bursary at the annual meeting of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists in 2018. I used this bursary to fund my trip to Vienna to attend 'Euroretina' which is the foremost annual eye conference in Europe and addresses much more than retinal conditions.

I was particularly interested in the Glaucoma Day as glaucoma makes up a large part of our daily practice. I was pleased to find that our approach to the investigation and management of glaucoma is very much in keeping with international norms. There is widespread interest in the association of ocular surface disease and glaucoma treatment and it is reassuring to know that companies such as Scope Ophthalmics continue to research and manufacture eye drops that help alleviate the complications of various glaucoma treatments.



Winner of the Scope Ophthalmics Travel Bursary 2019, Fiona Kearns is pictured with Keith Betts, Scope Ophthalmics and Alison Blake at the ICO Annual Conference 2019 in Galway.

Irish College of Ophthalmologists SOE YO Representative

The ICO wish to congratulate Trainee Ruth Ellard who has been elected to represent Ireland in the SOE Young Ophthalmologists Group.

Ruth takes over the role from Clare Quigley, who has represented young ophthalmologists in Ireland for the past two years. We sincerely thank Clare for her commitment throughout this timeframe and wish Ruth every success and enjoyment in her new role.

The ICO encourages all ICO trainees and young eye doctors to familiarise themselves and become active within this European group in order to share expertise and experiences.

The SOE Young Ophthalmologists group (SOE YO) aims to serve the collective needs of YOs in Europe who are in training or in their first 5 years of independent practice.

The SOE YO's programme welcomes contributions from trainees and young ophthalmologists such as observership or fellowship reports, and more detail about the group and the SOE can be found on the SOE website www.soevision.org/yo

The latest edition of the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) YO Newsletter is available on the SOE website www.soe.org

VISION 2020+1

Vision 2020 13th ISLRR Conference has been postponed to 11-15 July 2021. The offer of the ISLRR member Registration rates to ICO members is still valid. Please contact the ICO for further details and to request the registration link.



IMAGINING THE IMPOSSIBLE

13th International Low Vision Conference
by the International Society for Low Vision
Research and Rehabilitation

Sunday 11th - Thursday 15th July 2021
The Convention Centre Dublin - Ireland