



Irish College of
Ophthalmologists
Eye Doctors of Ireland
Protecting your Vision

ICO NEWS

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John Doris

President's Message

Welcome to our winter edition of the ICO Newsletter.

I wish to acknowledge everyone who attended

and presented at our second ICO Eye Care in Focus meeting at the Gibson Hotel in September. This meeting was an opportunity for networking and shared education with allied eye health care professionals. I would like to thank the NCBI for engaging with the College to explain very clearly the need for eye clinic liaison officers throughout the country. My gratitude also to Ian McKinley, our keynote speaker, who gave a heartfelt speech about his career as a professional rugby player and the challenges of introducing protective goggles into the international professional game.

On behalf of the College, I would like to thank Billy Power our Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology for his excellent stewardship of this office as his term comes to an end. It was a role in which he found himself unexpectedly after the untimely passing of Peter Barry. Billy has been a very effective leader implementing the plan which Paul Moriarty and Peter Barry prepared for us to follow. Billy effectively communicated the plan to those in power and the new model of eye care is now embedded in the DNA of the HSE's plan for Ophthalmology for the foreseeable future. He has overseen the first of the new Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist posts since 2020 and there are now 14 posts nationally. Congratulations to Billy for a job very well done.

Our ICO Winter meeting is on Friday the 1st December 2023. There will be short presentations followed by a session on Clinical Audit with speakers Dr Brian Creedon (Clinical Director of the NOCA), Mr James Cashman (Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon) and Mr Martin McKibbin (Consultant Ophthalmologist) giving an overview of the UK's National Ophthalmology Database Audit on age-related macular degeneration. Professor Chris Lloyd from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London will be presenting at the Annual Montgomery Lecture. I look forward to meeting you there.

Best wishes
John Doris, ICO President

Eye Care in Focus 2023

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists hosted its annual one day education meeting for the multi-disciplinary eye care team at The Gibson Hotel in Dublin on Tuesday, 19th September.

Over 180 eye health care professionals attended the ICO Eye Care in Focus Conference 2023, which attracted an audience of optometrists, ophthalmic nurses, orthoptists and ophthalmologists working both within the HSE and in private practice.

Dedicated education sessions focused on Refractive Surgery – the assessment and options for patients and on the integrated care pathways for Glaucoma patients in the community and hospital setting.

A separate session on 'Visual Impairment and Supporting Your Patients' included presentations from the NCBI and their Eye Clinic Liaison Officers representatives, who highlighted the extensive range of services available in

the community to anyone who needs support.

In his opening address, ICO President and Chair of the meeting, Mr John Doris, welcomed colleagues from all disciplines of eye care in attendance:

"The ICO is delighted to host our second Eye Care in Focus Conference for the eye care health professionals looking after eye care services in Ireland. It's a unique event for our specialty, providing an important platform for education, engagement and for shared learning amongst the team and disciplines, with the common goal of delivering excellent care and an improved care pathway experience to our patients."



Keynote speaker, former international rugby player, Ian McKinley is pictured with Mr John Doris, President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO) and Ms Janice Brady, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, University Hospital Waterford at the ICO Eye Care in Focus Conference 2023

Visual Impairment and Supporting Your Patient

During the 'Visual Impairment and Supporting your Patient' session, delegates heard from the NCBI and the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLCO) service on the ways in which the eye care team can support visually impaired patients in the clinic, the referral guidelines and the importance of timely intervention in offering support to patients.

Ms Hilary Devlin, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer at CHI Temple Street and Crumlin Hospital spoke about the service provided by the ECLCO team, enabling and informing patients in the acute setting on how to access community based services.

The ECLCO service currently operates in The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, CHI at Temple Street and Crumlin Children's Hospital as well as Cork University Hospital, with a focus on continued national roll out.

Ms Kristina Millar, National Insights and Impact Manager, NCBI outlined the broad range of services offered by the NCBI for any one experiencing vision impairment, including the rehabilitation services available in the community through NCBI, how patients can access them and what eye care professional can do to help support awareness and the referral process.

Ms Janice Brady, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Waterford

University Hospital shared her personal experience as a clinician, discussing the importance of the relationship that is built between the doctor and a patient, often over years of care. Janice spoke about her experience of learning how to support her patients as best as possible whilst acknowledging the challenges of being able to do this in a busy clinic and the vital role therefore of the ECLCO service in supporting these patients.

A panel discussion, chaired by Mr Kevin Kelly, National Strategic Partnerships Manager, NCBI, provided an opportunity for patients and the ECLCO team to further share their insights, personal experiences and perspectives with patient representatives Helen Murphy, Ruth McManus and Marta Bielawska joining the panel of speakers. The discussion allowed for a greater understanding of the lived experience of those who are living with or caring for a loved one with a visual impairment and just how significant the support services that are provided

by the eye health care team, NCBI and ECLCO are to their everyday lives.

The ICO wishes to thank all who participated in this very informative and impactful session on the day.

'SCNF – Second Chances Never Forget'



Former international rugby player, Ian McKinley, is pictured during his keynote speech 'SCNF – Second Chances Never Forget' at the Irish College of Ophthalmologists 'Eye Care in Focus 2023' Conference on Tuesday September 19, The Gibson Hotel Dublin.

It was a great pleasure for the College to welcome former international rugby player, Ian McKinley, who delivered an inspirational keynote talk on his personal journey following an on pitch accident in 2010 which resulted in the loss of vision in his left eye.

Ian shared the profound impact the accident had on him both personally and professionally and how, through the support he received, self determination and resilience, and the development of special goggles to protect his right eye, he managed to return to the game playing for Treviso in Italy and eventually getting the call up for the Italian National team.

Ian retired from professional rugby in 2021 pursuing a career in rugby coaching. He has continued to be an advocate for protective eye wear in the sport and shared his inspirational story in his book 'Second Sight: Rugby and Redemption' published last year.

His keynote talk was incredibly inspiring, leaving a lasting impact and serving as a poignant reminder of the preciousness and fragility of our eyesight.



Mr Ian McKinley, Mrs Helen Murphy, patient, Mr Kevin Kelly, National Strategic Partnership Manager, NCBI, Ms Hilary Devlin, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, NCBI and Ms Kristina Millar, National Insights and Impact Manager, NCBI.

Refractive Surgery: the assessment and options for patients

A series of comprehensive talks imparting expertise from their respective disciplines were presented at the Refractive Surgery education session by Ms Elaine Corrigan, Optometrist, Wellington Eye Clinic, Ms Gillian O'Mullane, Clinical Specialist Orthoptist, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street and Professor Billy Power, Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

During his presentation, Professor Billy Power outlined the options available to patients and the discussion around both the clinical and personal considerations from the patient's perspective needed during the consultation process when looking at which procedure is likely to deliver the best outcome to meet their expectations and needs.

In his talk, Billy covered the options and tailoring of treatments for patients with myopia and hyperopia (+/- astigmatism) and patients with emmetropic presbyopia, including laser (LASIK, PRK, LASEK, SMILE), Incisional (RK, AK), Inlays and lens based procedures.

Ms Elaine Corrigan provided an in-depth overview of the assessment of the refractive patient in the eye clinic, the process for examining the procedure most appropriate and the

visual target options available for both presbyopes and non-presbyopes.

Elaine also discussed the considerations for different patient types and important information to discuss with patients during their refractive evaluation appointment.

Ms Gillian O'Mullane discussed the early intervention steps for children who present at her clinic and the treatment options before the point of refractive surgery considerations. Gillian highlighted the potential advantages of refractive surgery for accommodative and non accommodative strabismus, emphasising key elements to assess during preoperative examinations. Gillian has vast experience of looking after patients with potential motility problems and whether they are suitable for refractive surgery.



Ms Elaine Corrigan, Optometrist, Wellington Eye Clinic, Beacon Medical Campus, Dublin; Ian McKinley; Ms Gillian O'Mullane, Clinical Specialist Orthoptist, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street and Ms Janice Brady, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, University Hospital Waterford.

Professional Competence

CPD Requirements for Scheme Year 2023/24

The Professional Competence Scheme year runs from May 1 to April 30.

Professional Competence has two key components:

- (1) Continuing Professional Development (CPD); and,
- (2) Clinical / Practice Audit.

CPD is measured in hours with each full hour of educational activity = 1 CPD credit.

PCS requires year-on-year compliance; there is no mechanism to 'carry forward' credits or competence from year to year.

Please note, the following CPD requirements relate to the 2023/2024 scheme year which begins on 1 may 2023 and ends on 30 april 2024

In the Professional Competence Year beginning on 1 May 2023 and ending on 30 April 2024, doctors will be required to undertake and record the following CPD activity with their Scheme:

- 40 credits (in any category: external, internal, personal, research/teaching); and
- One audit (clinical or practice (Quality Improvement)).

This increase will bring the annual requirements to 50 hours of CPD activity which will be in line with the new strengthened Maintenance of Professional Competence Framework Model commencing on 1 May 2024.

ICO Annual Conference 2024

15th – 17th May
Knockranny House Hotel,
Westport,
Co Mayo.



Programme and registration details to follow shortly!

Glaucoma Clinical Education Session

Opening the afternoon clinical education session on glaucoma, Dr Robert Harper, Optometrist at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital and Honorary Professor of Optometry, School of Health Sciences at the University of Manchester discussed the capacity in glaucoma services and engaging with primary care optometry.

Dr Harper discussed the well-known background of capacity versus demand in glaucoma, before considering the evolution of optometry services in the past few decades.

The historical development of shared care was noted, and the impact of deprivation in eyecare and the location of primary care services flagged, before going on to discuss the development of community based referral filtering schemes and community monitoring schemes, using recent Manchester examples to discuss outcomes.

While the emphasis was on primary care and optometry, Dr Harper also touched on the tandem progress of 'in house' hospital based shared care, with an overall emphasis on experiences of development of eye care pathways, potentially of relevance to other areas where capacity in glaucoma care is similarly problematic.



Keynote speakers at the Glaucoma clinical education session Dr Robert Harper, Optometrist, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital and Honorary Professor of Optometry, School of Health Sciences, University of Manchester; Dr Margaret Morgan, Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, CHO 7 and Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin; Ms Elaine Brennan; Clinical Nurse Specialist, Glaucoma Clinic, Beaumont Hospital Eye Department with ICO President, Mr John Doris.

Adult glaucoma care pathway across community and hospital

In her presentation, Dr Margaret Morgan, Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, outlined the developments

that led to setting up a community glaucoma service in CHO 7 and Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, in particular the virtual glaucoma pathway and the activity to date.

Dr Morgan has been active in developing and expanding the adult ophthalmology service with particular focus on the glaucoma and cataract patient care pathway between the



Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Community Healthcare Area 7 alongside Ms Aoife Doyle, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon. Glaucoma assessment clinics have been running in the Community since November 2021.

Dr Morgan led a pilot service for diabetic retinopathy screening and was the first clinical lead for the development and roll-out of the National Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service in Ireland.

Clinical Nurse Specialist, Ms Elaine Brennan provided an overview of the nurse specialist led glaucoma clinic over the past 12 years in Beaumont Hospital Eye Department.

The shared care glaucoma clinic was set up at the hospital eye department in 2011 for stable glaucoma patients. Elaine outlined how and why this has been a very successful, cost effective and timely way of managing this cohort of patients. The presentation gave an overview of the improved service for stable glaucoma patients, why it was set up, how and the outcomes and learnings from it.



Dr Margaret Morgan, Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and CHO7; Ms Aoife Doyle, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin and Dr Aziz Rehman, Medical Ophthalmologist, CH09 and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital.

Royal College of Ophthalmologists Conferring



Professor Ben Burton, President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists and Dr Alison Blake, Ireland Council Representative, pictured at the RCOphth UK Conferring Ceremony 2023 in London on Friday 8 September 2023.



Recipients of the Duke-Elder Undergraduates Prize 2023 Enda McGonigle, University College Cork (left) and Abdullah Zafar Khan, University College Dublin, pictured with Dr Alison Blake.

ICO Masterclass Series in Glaucoma 2023

Following the success of the ICO Masterclass Series in Medical Retina in 2021 and 2022, the College is delighted to facilitate a Masterclass Series in Glaucoma for our trainees throughout the 2023 autumn/winter semester.

An outstanding line-up of international experts are confirmed for the individual sessions taking place on October 19th, November 16th and November 30th.

Session 1: October 19th Professor James Morgan, Cardiff University, Wales

The first session on October 19th was delivered by Professor James Morgan, Cardiff University, on the "Care Pathways for OHT and Glaucoma" in Wales. The meeting was chaired by Ms Aoife Doyle, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and Glaucoma Specialist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, and St James's Hospital, Dublin.

Professor Morgan took up his appointment at Cardiff in 1997 and established a research group to understand the pathophysiology of retinal damage in glaucoma. His research group has focussed on the factors that drive retinal ganglion cell degeneration to investigate the extent to which treatments can be used to reverse this degeneration. From 2015-23 he led the group developing the OpenEyes electronic record for ophthalmology, currently used in Moorfields Eye Hospital and adopted as the national solution for Scotland and Wales.

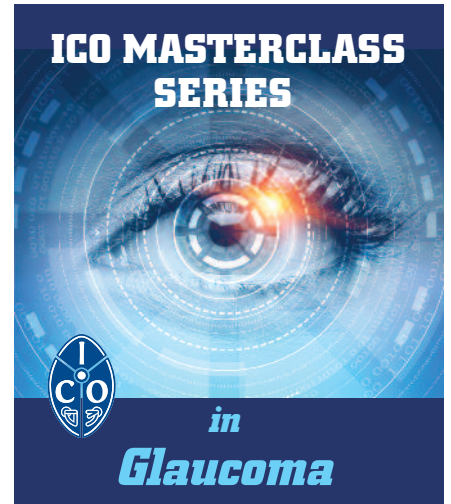
The second session in the Glaucoma Masterclass series will take place on November 16th with invited guest speakers Professor Augusto Azaura-

Blanco, Queen's University, Belfast, Professor Anthony King, University of Nottingham and Professor Anders Heijl, Lund University, Malmo.

Ms. Winnie Nolan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London will deliver the final session in this year's series on Thursday, November 30th, concluding what promises to be an exceptional learning experience for the ICO trainees in attendance.



Professor James Morgan



Pictured at the first in the 2023 ICO Masterclass Series in Glaucoma, which took place at The Radisson, Golden Lane, Dublin on Thursday, 19th October are (l-r) Professor Colm O'Brien, Miss Yvonne Delaney, ICO Dean, guest speaker Professor James Morgan, Cardiff University, Wales, Dr Christine Bourke (HMT) and Ms Aoife Doyle. In his talk, Professor Morgan discussed the eye care service in Wales, outlining the care pathways for ocular hypertension and glaucoma.

ICO MASTERCLASS SERIES IN GLAUCOMA SPEAKERS



Professor Augusto Azura-Blanco
Queen's University Belfast



Professor Anders Heijl,
Lund University, Sweden



Professor Anthony-King,
University of Nottingham



Ms. Winnie Nolan,
Consultant, Moorfields London

ICO Winter Meeting

The ICO Winter Meeting will take place on the afternoon of Friday, 1st December at the Albert Theatre, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, followed by the Annual Montgomery Lecture at the same venue that evening.

The winter meeting programme (2pm – 5pm) includes a short paper presentation session and a session on Clinical Audit.



Dr Brian Creedon



Mr James Cashman



Mr Martin McKibben

The Clinical Audit session will feature talks delivered by Dr Brian Creedon, Clinical Director of the National Office of Clinical Audit and Consultant Palliative Medicine Physician, University Hospital Waterford, Mr James Cashman, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the National Orthopaedic Hospital in Cappagh and Clinical Lead for the Irish National Orthopaedic Register and Mr Martin McKibbin, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Clinical Lead, UK AMD Audit (Royal College of Ophthalmologists and National Ophthalmology Database).

The National Office of Clinical Audit was established in 2012 to create sustainable clinical audit programmes at national level. Its aim is to enable those who manage and deliver healthcare to improve the quality of care through national clinical audit. NOCA is funded by the Health Service Executive Quality Improvement Division, governed by an independent voluntary board and operationally supported by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Dr Creedon has been involved with the office since 2015, when he joined as a member of the National Audit of Hospital Mortality Governance Committee. He went on to become Clinical Lead for this audit.

Mr James Cashman will share his expertise in clinical audit in his capacity

as the Clinical Lead for the Irish National Orthopaedic Register. The Register aims to improve the quality of services and care provided to patients. By using patient scoring systems and recording on implant performance and patient outcomes, the register aims to monitor the safety of implants and support hospitals should an implant recall occur.

The College is also delighted to welcome to our panel of guest speakers at the Winter Meeting, Mr Martin McKibben from the Royal College of Ophthalmologists in the UK. He will give an overview of the National Ophthalmology Database Audit on Age-related Macular Degeneration which was published earlier this year.

A leading Medical Retina specialist, Mr McKibben was appointed Clinical Lead for the UK AMD Audit in 2020, which is managed by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and supported by the National Ophthalmology Database. The audit of AMD treatment outcomes covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Martin was the AMD lead for the feasibility audits produced by the National Ophthalmology Database on behalf of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership and was a co-author of the Royal College AMD audit dataset.

Montgomery Lecture

Drinks Reception: 5.30pm

Montgomery Lecture: 6.00pm

“Paediatric cataract diagnostics – and the role of genetics in improving precise diagnosis.”



Professor Christopher Lloyd,
MB BS DO FRCS FRCOphth
Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London.

Professor Lloyd is a Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. He holds an honorary Chair from the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, University of Manchester and maintains a part-time role at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

He became Manchester's first sub-specialist Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist in 1995 after training at St Bartholomews' Hospital London, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital (MREH) and as a clinical fellow at Great Ormond Street. He and his colleagues developed the MREH paediatric eye service into a large tertiary referral and teaching centre facilitating annual clinical fellowships in paediatric ophthalmology.

Professor Lloyd has a longstanding clinical and research interest in the diagnosis and management of childhood cataract and established a dedicated clinic in Manchester for affected children. He has collaborated with Professor Graeme Black and the ManGen team in the development (and subsequent introduction to the NHS) of a targeted next generation sequencing panel for improving precision of diagnosis of children with cataract.

He is a board member of the European Paediatric Ophthalmology Society and Chairman of the Paediatric Subcommittee of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

Professor Lloyd was among the keynote speakers at the ICO Annual Conference paediatric symposium in Galway in 2019 and it is our great pleasure to welcome him back to Ireland for this honorary lecture.

Pan Ireland Ophthalmology Day

Marking World Sight Day 2023

The President of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists Mr John Doris gave a keynote speech at the opening of the afternoon session of Pan Ireland Ophthalmology Day hosted by Queen's University Belfast in the Assembly Buildings on the 13th October 2023.

John thanked Tunde Peto, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at QUB for the invitation to speak on behalf of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists. The annual calendar event runs over three days to coincide with World Sight Day and features a programme of international experts in clinical and vision sciences, placing a spotlight on blinding eye diseases.

John has a personal connection to Northern Ireland, having grown up in Downpatrick which is located just 30 minutes away from the venue. Furthermore, he mentioned that he had graduated from Queen's University in the past and had previously worked as a basic surgical trainee in the eye department of the Royal Victoria Hospital, 20 years ago.

During his speech, John emphas-

ised the importance of maintaining collaborative efforts in education, training, and research that involve the entirety of Ireland. He commended the joint investment made by ophthalmology organisations in the US, Northern Ireland, and Ireland for their tripartite research and development programme. Additionally, he acknowledged the support of Northern Ireland at the ICO Eye Care in Focus meeting, which took place in September 2023. This meeting served as a valuable platform for networking and shared education among allied eye healthcare professionals.

John expressed his appreciation towards Professor Stephen Kaye, the Vice President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, who gave the opening address during the morning

session of the meeting. John mentioned the strong relationship between the Irish College of Ophthalmologists and the Royal College in the UK, stating that the ICO has modelled its surgical training programme based on the high standards set by the RCOphth. He highlighted the immense value derived from many of our trainees travelling to the UK for additional subspecialty fellowships.

John thanked the Royal College for inviting the ICO to participate in a session at their annual conference in May 2024, which will be held in Belfast. The likely topic will centre around similar and different approaches to training, models of care and the roles of supportive staff.

John discussed the new Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist post introduced to the Irish health service in 2019.

He explained the origins of the Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology in 2012 and the work of the Clinical Lead, acknowledging the succession of clinical leads Paul Moriarty, Peter Barry and Billy Power.

The pressing need for a strategic plan arose from the growing demand stemming from both an increasing and aging population, alongside insufficient community and hospital



capacity. Community pediatric services were overwhelmed, while hospitals faced extensive surgical waiting lists and a high volume of chronic diseases in their outpatient departments.

John outlined a paradigm shift in our model of care with the establishment of integrated eye care teams. These teams, led by Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists, include optometrists, orthoptists, nursing staff, and technicians. Additionally, they are supported by an administrative team and an integrated electronic record system. These units are equipped to handle medical retinal, glaucoma, pediatric services, pre- and post-operative care for cataract surgeries, as well as offer intravitreal injections, minor surgeries, and laser treatments. The primary aim is to ensure that the appropriate care is delivered in the right setting and at the right time.

The first Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist posts were taken up in 2020 and there are now 14 posts nationally.

John explained the origins of the Medical Ophthalmology training programme and how the 5 year programme. (3 years basic training and 2 years higher training) obtained its accreditation from the Irish Medical Council. As a testimony to the standard of training our new trainees have been able to secure fellowships in Moorfields and Bristol.

John highlighted various aspects of the programme that make it highly attractive, including quality of life, opportunities for professional growth and research, as well as the provision of a surgical buddy system to support the on-call responsibilities.

With a projected 30% increase in services over the next decade and a predicted population surge to 11 million across the entire island of Ireland by 2050, there is a robust demand for our services, necessitating the expansion of the integrated eye care team plan throughout the country.

We are currently in a promotional phase and ICO Dean Yvonne Delaney is engaging with medical students up and down the country making them aware of this new and exciting career opportunity. A promotional video is available on the ICO web page as part of the communications drive.

ICO Board Meeting Updates

The Board met in the College in person in September. This was the first time that the Board met in Stephen's Green since the pandemic. In the intervening years the office building at 121 has been refurbished and the College's new home is now on the 4th floor. Topics under current discussion include sustainability and the green agenda which are increasingly important to the College and the specialty. The RCSI is

looking at the future of technology in surgery and medicine and the Board is exploring what the major issues in the future will be and contributing to that review. The impact of telemedicine and AI will be major topics and the Board and Service Development Committee will be considering those in more detail. The Board also continues to discuss national audit and this will be a topic at the forthcoming Winter Meeting.

Phaco Bootcamp



Pictured at the Phaco Bootcamp which took place at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, 11th October are (l-r) Mr Princeton Lee (course organiser), Dr Mark Forristal (BST), Dr Jay Jun Lee (BST), Dr Alexandra McCreery, SHO SVUH, Dr Amy Coman (BST) and Dr Luke O'Brien (BST).



Mark Forristal (right) with Luke O'Brien.

Training and Careers in Ophthalmology 2023

In the lead up to the application opening process for 2024 trainee intake, ICO Dean Miss Yvonne Delaney and College staff coordinated a series of engagement opportunities with the individual Schools of Medicine and Intern Networks to ensure the ongoing promotion and profiling of ophthalmology as an exciting career specialty choice.

A dedicated ICO online careers talk was hosted on the 10th October with a record number of registrations for this year's session. Yvonne outlined the programmes in medical and surgical ophthalmology and respective score-card requirements. Yvonne was joined by Patrick Canning, BST and Alan Hopkins, BMT who shared their valuable insights into a day in the life of a trainee with the prospective applicants and joined Yvonne in the Q&A session.

The attendance record at this year's online event demonstrates the ongoing increased awareness of the College and the training pathways, following a coordinated and sustained communications strategy the College has engaged in with the undergraduate medical institutions, Intern Networks and the NDTP in recent years

We continue to optimise on the opportunities for face to face meetings at careers events and talks which



present throughout the autumn/winter. These have included talks at Cork University Hospital Careers Event for the South Intern Network on September 28th, at UL for the MidWest Intern Network on October 2nd and at the Galway University Hospital Careers event for interns, medical students and NCHD on October 5th. The College

expresses its gratitude to Meghann Canning BMT and Aaron Donnelly HST for their representation of the College at the Galway careers event. It is really valuable for potential applicants to receive firsthand insights from trainees regarding their experiences and advice on how to prepare for application.

In Dublin, a careers in ophthalmology talk was delivered on October 19th at the RCSI/DNE intern career event at Beaumont Hospital. Another is planned for UCD medical students on November 2nd at the Catherine McAuley Education Centre and the College is currently liaising with TCD School of Medicine and DSE Intern Network to secure a date.

Yvonne Delaney and ICO Communications Manager Ciara Keenan wish to thank the Professors of Ophthalmology, clinical lecturers and tutor who have been most supportive in working with the College on career talk opportunities for their medical students.

Plans to create a second video for the Careers in Ophthalmology awareness drive are in motion, with a view to launching this new communications tool for the application opening process in 2024.



Dr Aaron Donnelly, HST and Dr Meghann Canning, BMT pictured at the Medical Careers event at Galway University Hospital on Thursday, 5th October.

Adare Retinal Meeting 2023

The Annual Adare Retinal Meeting, coordinated by Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer, took place on Thursday, 28th September at The Dunraven Arms Hotel in Adare, Co Limerick.



Mr Dara Kilmartin, Dr Caoimhe Normile, Dr Catherine Cleary, Ms Emma Duignan, Mr John Doris, Ms Caroline Baily, Mr Frank Kinsella, Mr Tomás Burke, Dr Patricia Quinlan, Dr Monique Hope-Ross, Dr Amy O'Regan, Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer and Dr Aoife Smyth.



Mr Conall Hurley and Dr Garry Treacy.



Mr John Doris, Dr Maureen Hillery, Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer, Dr Dharm Pandeya



Dr Alison Blake, Dr Grace O'Malley, Dr Bernie Rowan, Dr Loretta Nolan



Mr Frank Kinsella pictured with Amy McLoughlin, Mr Nakul Mandal and Clare Gillespie.



Dr Susan Kelly and Ms Caroline Baily

RCSI Collaborative Study Zone

ICO Chief Executive Siobhan Kelly had the pleasure of reacquainting with Professor Robert A Braunstein, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia University Hospital, New York, during his recent return visit to Ireland.

Professor Braunstein was among the keynote guest speakers at this year's Medical Retina Symposium at the Annual Conference in Killarney.

Professor Braunstein was delighted to have the opportunity to visit the RCSI Collaborative Study Zone, where a plaque commemorates his valuable support and contribution to this facility for students.

In addition to training residents and fellows for over four decades, Robert taught in the RCSI Healthcare Management programme, served as a voluntary faculty member on Orbis International Flying Eye Hospital missions and consulted for the National Football League.

He is currently serving as a consultant to the Food and Drugs Administration Ophthalmic Device Committee.



Professor Robert A Braunstein, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia University Hospital, New York.

EURetina 2023 Amsterdam



Pictured is Dr Natalie Ng (BMT) at the EURetina Conference which took place in Amsterdam 5th–8th October 2023. Natalie gave a presentation entitled "The functional and morphological outcome on eyes with diabetic macular oedema localised to the fovea with or without treatment" at the meeting.

ICO Microsurgical Skills Course



The ICO Microsurgical Skills Course took place in the RCSI on Monday, 28th August. This course is run by Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeons Mr Tim Fulcher (MMUH) and Mr Paul O'Brien (Private Practice) alongside Ophthalmic Nurse Denis Ga'an (RVEEH). In the picture are the three mentioned above and our Year 1 BST/BMT and IMG trainees. From left, Ahad Sharif (IMG), Tooba Hameed (IMG), Natalie Ng (BMT), Mohammed Mohamed (BMT), Mark Forristal (BST), Luke O'Brien (BST), Matthew O'Riordan (BST), Amy Coman (BST), Matthew O'Donnell (BMT) and Sara Atif (IMG).