



Irish College of  
Ophthalmologists  
*Eye Doctors of Ireland*  
Protecting your Vision

# ICO NEWS

ISSUE 33

SPRING 2023

## President's Message

Welcome to the spring 2023 edition of our newsletter.

With spring approaching, we can all look forward to our annual conference in Killarney in May. The conference will include clinical symposia on the topics of medical retina, ocular tumours, keratitis and watery eye. The Mooney Lecture will be delivered by Prof David Garway-Heath from Moorfields Eye Hospital. An outline of the programme is highlighted below in the newsletter.

Also covered in the newsletter are the changes that the Medical Council is making to the professional competence scheme from May 2024. The Board have already been focusing on the supports that the College will provide for members in relation to this.

The Board has approved its 2023 action plan which, amongst other issues, includes addressing other requirements from the Medical Council Accreditation of the College's Training Programmes. These work requirements have formed part of the work plans for our Board committees, including the Governance & Nominations, the Service Delivery and the Training Standards and Regulations committees.

It was with great sadness that we mourned the death of Professor Michael O'Keefe in January. He was a friend and colleague of mine and many other Irish and International Ophthalmologists. He had such an incredible appetite for work, that was matched by none but was admired by everyone. His contribution to the development of refractive surgery and paediatric ophthalmology was internationally ground breaking. In particular his work in relation to paediatric cataract surgery and retinopathy of prematurity. Countless children have good vision today that otherwise would not have had, were it not for his great work. Much of this was reflected in the thousands of condolence messages that his family received from colleagues, friends and patients. May he Rest in Peace.

*With Best Wishes,  
Tim Fulcher*



## ICO Winter Meeting & Annual Montgomery Lecture

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists held its Winter Meeting in the Albert Theatre at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland on Friday 18 November. It was a welcome return to an in-person event for the Winter Meeting. The 2020 and 2021 meetings were held virtually.



*Annual Montgomery Lecturer 2022, Professor Timothy Sullivan, University of Queensland (centre) is pictured with Mr Tim Fulcher, President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists and Prof Camilla Carroll, RCSI Council Member at the Albert Theatre, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Friday 18th November.*

The focus of discussion was on eyelid, lacrimal and orbital conditions with a grand rounds session led by ICO President, Mr Tim Fulcher and a panel of experts including Prof. Timothy Sullivan, Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Queensland, Australia, Ms Elizabeth McElnea, Consultant Ophthalmic

Surgeon, University Hospital Galway, Mr Michéal O'Rourke, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, and Mr Gerry Fahy, Galway Clinic.

An interactive Q&A session with the panel was based on a series of clinical cases on a range of eyelid, lacrimal and orbital conditions and

the management of complexities in this area, presented by ICO Surgical Trainees Dr. Aaron Donnelly and Dr. Liam Mulcahy.

The meeting also included podium presentations, chaired by

Prof Colm O'Brien, Miss Yvonne Delaney and Ms Janice Brady, and a virtual poster exhibition featuring research projects, audits and case reviews being conducted in ophthalmology across Ireland and in the UK.



Miss Yvonne Delaney, Dean, Irish College of Ophthalmologists, Professor Timothy Sullivan, and Professor Colm O'Brien, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital.

## National Education Series Meeting

The ICO, in collaboration with the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology, will host a meeting for the Integrated Eye Care Team on Thursday, 30th of March

**INTEGRATED  
EYE CARE TEAM**



ICO National Education Series  
*In collaboration with the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology*

The meeting will take place from 10am - 12pm at the Education and Learning Centre, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin.

The session is part of the National Education Series coordinated by the ICO and National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology in support of the implementation of the new Integrated Eye Care Teams which is extending the delivery of specialist ophthalmic care in the non-acute setting.

Delegates will hear an update on the continued reconfiguration of adult and children's eye care service delivery, as guided by the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology Model of Care. Clinical Lead, Prof Billy Power, will chair the session with talks from Dr Margaret Morgan and Dr Olya Scannell.

Registration is complimentary for ICO members and members of the HSE integrated eye care team and management.

## Annual Montgomery Lecture "2022: An Orbital Odyssey"

It was a great honour for the College to welcome Prof Timothy Sullivan, a specialist in paediatric and adult eyelid disorders, lacrimal and orbital disease, to Ireland to present the Annual Montgomery Lecture that evening at The Albert Lecture Theatre, RCSI.

His lecture entitled "2022: An Orbital Odyssey" highlighted advances in the management of orbital diseases over the years through improvements in imaging, diagnostics and treatment resulting in better outcomes for patients.

2022 marked the 106th year of the Annual Montgomery Lecture. The establishment of the Lecture in 1916 was of great significance to the specialty of ophthalmology in Ireland. Dr Robert Montgomery served as an ophthalmic surgeon to St Mark's Hospital and the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital until his passing in 1912.

The Montgomery Lecture was the first medical lecture to be founded in Trinity College Dublin and the inaugural lecture was presented by Dr

Euphan Maxwell in 1916 on the subject of "Diagnosis in Uveitis".



Professor Timothy Sullivan, presenting the Annual Montgomery Lecture 2023

# Professional Competence: New Framework proposed by the Medical Council

The Medical Council has proposed new Professional Competence Rules & Guidelines based on research into best international practice and following consultation with registered medical practitioners and other key stakeholders.

Once approved, the new guidelines will come into effect in May 2024. A public consultation is now being held to obtain a broad range of feedback from you on the revised Rules and Guidelines.

The majority of changes relate to the CPD categories. Once enrolled, registered medical practitioners must engage in and record 50 hours of CPD activity annually. There are four broad categories of CPD proposed with the breakdown of hours per category outlined below:



The (i) PCS Plan, (ii) Peer Review of your Plan and (iii) End of Year Reflection for the Planning CPD category are self-directed and are not viewed by the Medical Council. The templates will be built into the new online PCS account and will be the record that you participated in the activity of planning. The draft guidelines provide greater detail on the four categories as well as a list of examples for each category in the appendices.

## You will also find updated information in the guidelines on:

- Requirements for registered medical practitioners not engaged in the practice of medicine
- Pro Rata CPD Activity in situations such as:
  - Leave (maternity, parental, carers, adoptive leave, or other forms of statutory leave and illness)
  - Newly registered medical

practitioner or practitioners restored to the register

- Registered medical practitioners who relocate to the Ireland during the Scheme year
- Overseas Requirements
- Monitoring of CPD

The PCS Online Account will be developed to reflect the changes ratified for the new PCS framework and we will ensure all those enrolled will receive support in transitioning to the new online account. We will also ensure that you are updated throughout the next PCS year (commencing May 2023) so that you will be ready to engage in the new PCS framework.

Before the new framework is ratified, we encourage you to read the full draft Guidelines and Rules and to submit your feedback, to do this please visit:

<https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/public-information/public-consultations/>

## Professional Competence: ICO Clinical Practice Audit 2022/23

ICO Members have been notified of two suggestions for the ICO Clinical Practice Audit 2022/23:

### A) Your Patient Age Trends over the Last 10 Years

Review the age profile of patients attending your practice over the last 10 years using the parameters below:

- Record the ages of 50 patients seen in the last 6 months of 2012 (1st July - 31st Dec 2012)
- Record the ages of 50 patients seen in the last 6 months of 2022 (1st July - 31st Dec 2022)

Or

### B) Average Distance Travelled from your Patients Home to your Practice

Review the average distance travelled by patients from their home to your practice over the last 10 years using the parameters below:

- Record the average distance that 50 patients travelled from their home to your practice during the last 6 months of 2012 (1st July - 31st Dec 2012)
- Record the average distance that 50 patients travelled from their home to your practice during the last 6 months of 2022 (1st July - 31st Dec 2022)

The ICO has shared the link with PCS members to record the details of your audit when it is complete for PCS purposes. The deadline for recording the audit is 30th April which is the last day of the current PCS year. The ICO will then upload the audit credit to your PCS Online Account.

If you have any queries, please email ICO Professional Competence Manager Niamh Coen [niamh.coen@eyedoctors.ie](mailto:niamh.coen@eyedoctors.ie).

# ICO Winter Meeting & Annual M



*Prof Billy Power, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Prof David Keegan, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital*



*Dr Robert McGrath, Dr Liam Mulcahy and Dr Fionn O'Leary, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital*



*Dr Aisling Naylor, Dr Pdraig O'Connell, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, and Dr Eabha O'Driscoll, Clinical Tutor, University College Dublin*



*Ms Janice Brady, University Hospital Waterford, Dr Sarah Powell, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dr Deirdre Harford, University Hospital Galway and Dr Zahra Malik, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital*



*Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer, University Hospital Limerick and Ms Susan FitzSimon, CHI Temple Street and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital*

# Montgomery Lecture

18 November 2022,  
Albert Theatre, RCSI



*Dr Ruth Ellard and Dr Iryna Surzhenko, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital*



*Mr Gerry Fahy, Galway Clinic, Dr Patricia Quinlan, Blackrock Clinic and Mr Ian Dooley, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital*



*Dr Alison Blake, Cavan General Hospital, Ms Caitriona Kirwan, Institute of Eye Surgery and Dr Denise Curtin, Clinical Tutor, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland*



*Dr Liam Bourke, University Hospital Limerick, Dr Aoife Smyth, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Dr Alan Hopkins, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital*



*Prof Colm O'Brien, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dr Olya Scannell, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, and Dr Brendan Cummings, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital*



*Dr Alison Greene, Dr Jay Jun Lee and Dr Triona Butler, University Hospital Galway*

# ICO Annual Conference 2023

The College is delighted to be planning our 2023 Annual Conference, which will take place at the Great Southern, Killarney from midday Monday 22nd until lunchtime on Wednesday 24th May.



The Conference is a highlight of the College's annual calendar and an important opportunity for our members to meet and discuss the latest clinical, scientific and service delivery updates taking place in the specialty.

### Early Bird Registration

Early Bird Registration for our members remains available until April 4th. Please log in to the ICO members portal to complete your registration.

### Programme

Clinical symposia at this year's conference will focus on Medical Retina, Ocular Tumours, Keratitis and the Assessment and Management of Watery Eye.

Among the eminent guest speakers, we are delighted to be welcoming Dr Carol Shields, Director of Ocular

Oncology Service at Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, Prof John Crown, Consultant Oncologist, St Vincent's University Hospital and Prof Heinrich Heimann, Liverpool Ocular Oncology Research Group who will give their presentations at the Ocular Tumours symposium. Dr Stela Vujosevic, Head of Medical Retina Unit, IRCCS Multi Medica, Milan and Prof Usha Chakravarthy, Professor of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, Queen's University of Belfast will present at the Retina symposium on Monday.

Workshop sessions, paper and poster presentations, a talk on 'Managing Risk' and the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) Lecture 2023 are among the many other highlights which will feature on the three day conference programme.

A parallel industry partner exhibition will run alongside the



*Prof. David Garway-Heath, Moorfields Eye Hospital London  
ICO Honorary Mooney Lecturer 2023*

scientific conference.

The full programme will be posted on the ICO website [www.eyedoctors.ie](http://www.eyedoctors.ie).

The ICO looks forward to welcoming you all to Killarney this year for what promises to be a great conference!

### Annual Mooney Lecture 2023

Professor David Garway-Heath, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital London will present the Annual Mooney Lecture at the ICO Conference.

Prof Garway-Heath was the principal investigator of the UK glaucoma treatment study, a landmark trial in glaucoma management and the first trial in glaucoma to be published in The Lancet.

He is the inventor of the anatomical map (known as the 'Garway-Heath map') used worldwide in research in structure-function relationship in glaucoma and of the Moorfields regression Analysis algorithm for one of the earliest imaging diagnostic devices contributing to the worldwide use of imaging in the clinic.

He is Past President of the European Glaucoma Society and Vice President of the International Imaging and Perimetry Society. We have no doubt it will be a fascinating lecture.

## GUEST SPEAKERS



*Dr Stela Vujosevic  
IRCCS Multi Medica, Milan*



*Prof Usha Chakravarthy  
Queen's University of Belfast*



*Prof Heinrich Heimann  
Liverpool Ocular Oncology  
Research Group*



*Dr Carol Shields  
Wills Eye Hospital,  
Philadelphia*



*Prof John Crown  
St Vincent's University  
Hospital, Dublin*

# RCSI Charter Meeting 2022 *Parallel Ophthalmic Session*

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland held its annual Charter Day meeting from January 28th to February 3rd with the Ophthalmology Parallel session taking place on the latter.

In keeping with its setting in the beautifully appointed Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland building at 26 York Street, home of the National Surgical and Clinical Skills Centre, the meeting was designed to provide three comprehensive, informative presentations aimed at trainees in Ophthalmology and addressing topics important in surgical Ophthalmology. The session was chaired by Ms. Elizabeth McElnea from University Hospital Galway and Mr. Gerry Fahy who currently works in the Galway Clinic.

Mr. Michéal O'Rourke from the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin delivered a rousing presentation 'The Surgical Management of Exposure Keratopathy' replete with fantastic clinical images identifying the plethora of often very challenging conditions that can produce exposure keratopathy.

Ms. Aine Ni Mhealoid who works at University Hospital Waterford followed

with a review 'Ophthalmic Surgery for Neuro-Ophthalmology' in which she detailed surgical approaches to the management of idiopathic intracranial hypertension, addressed potential non-surgical alternatives to strabismus surgery and highlighted the potential future role for intervention in patients with Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy. Her presentation promoted excellent debate on the role of optic nerve sheath fenestration in idiopathic intracranial hypertension, a condition in which she has a particular interest.

Ms. Elizabeth McElnea finished with a summary of the indications for surgical intervention in patients with orbital cellulitis and in particular subperiosteal abscess associated with the same – 'Orbital Infection - The Who, What and When of Surgical Intervention'. The audience – both Consultants and trainees in Ophthalmology contributed their recent experiences of managing, in particular, orbital cellulitis in paediatric patients.



Mr Michéal O'Rourke and Ms Elizabeth McElnea.



Mr Gerry Fahy, Galway Clinic, Ms Aine NiMhealoid, University Hospital Waterford, Ms Elizabeth McElnea, University Hospital Galway and Mr Michéal O'Rourke, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital

## Eye Care in Focus Conference

SAVE THE DATE

September 19, The Gibson Hotel



Irish College of Ophthalmologists  
Eye Doctors of Ireland » Protecting your Vision

Eye Care in Focus  
CONFERENCE 2022

19 September 2023  
The Gibson Hotel, Dublin  
[www.eyedoctors.ie](http://www.eyedoctors.ie) / @eyedoctorsirl

The ICO is delighted to announce that we will once again be hosting the Eye Care in Focus Conference for the extended eye care team this autumn, following the success of the inaugural meeting in October 2022.

The full day clinical education conference will take place from 8am - 4pm Tuesday, September 19th at The Gibson Hotel, Dublin.

The meeting is open to ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, ophthalmic nurses and technicians working across the private and public service.

Further details will be circulated to members and posted on the ICO website [www.eyedoctors.ie](http://www.eyedoctors.ie) in the coming weeks.

# Intern Network Career in Ophthalmology Talks

The ICO continued our coordination of face to face career talks to interns in the opening weeks of the new year. The career talks programme particularly aims to increase awareness of the National Training Programme in Medical Ophthalmology and the career opportunities in that speciality.

ICO Dean, Miss Yvonne Delaney, delivered a presentation and Q&A session for Trinity College Dublin / Dublin South East Intern Network doctors at St James's Hospital on Thursday, 12th January and the following day to interns at Tallaght University Hospital. This follows the presentations given to interns in

Limerick and Galway last October. The College is planning another series of career talks for 3rd & 4th year medical students over the spring and early summer, to promote the National Specialist Training Programmes in Ophthalmology and to increase awareness of the Medical Training Pathway.

## Spread the Word!

*The College is encouraging our members who may be aware of doctors who are interested in applying to the National Training Programme in Medical or Surgical Ophthalmology and a career in ophthalmology to get in touch with our Training Programme Manager, Rebecca Martin who can provide them with guidance and advice [rebecca.martin@eyedoctors.ie](mailto:rebecca.martin@eyedoctors.ie)*



## QUB Pan Ireland Ophthalmology Meeting

Each year, as part of the Pan-Ireland Ophthalmic Conference, Queen's University Belfast hosts a special event, the Pan-Ireland Ophthalmology Day, to celebrate World Sight Day and focus attention on the global issue of avoidable blindness and visual impairment.

The event will concentrate on blinding eye diseases and will feature presentations from a host of guest lecturers who are all experts in their field both in clinical and basic science. The ICO has supported this event since its inception and looks forward to our collaboration with our Northern Irish colleagues on the 2023 event.

Further details will be posted on the ICO website events section and shared with members in advance.

## RAMI Spring Meeting

The Section of Ophthalmology of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland will hold its spring meeting on Friday, 31st March 2023 in the Sheraton Athlone Hotel, Gleeson Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Guest Speaker is

Professor John Nolan who will give a presentation entitled 'Protecting retinal and brain health by enriching macular and brain carotenoids: Implications for Age-related Macular Degeneration and Alzheimer's disease.'



Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer (far right), Chair of the RAMI Ophthalmic Section pictured with delegates at the RAMI Winter Meeting which took place on November 18th at the Education and Learning Centre, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.