



ICO MISSION

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists is committed to the advancement and improvement of eye health and patient safety and work to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards in the delivery of eye care.

This Annual Report describes the performance and key operations of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists during 2025.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GERRY FAHY

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists continues to play a central role in advancing excellence in eye care across Ireland. As the national training and professional body for ophthalmologists, our mission is to support the highest standards in clinical practice, education, and patient outcomes.

Over the past year, we have remained focused on strengthening our training programmes, supporting our members, and contributing meaningfully to the evolution of eye care services nationwide.

This year has brought both challenges and opportunities. Increasing demand for ophthalmic services, coupled with workforce pressures, has underscored the importance of strategic planning, innovation, and collaboration. In response, the College has continued to advocate for sustainable service development, enhanced training capacity, and improved patient access to timely care. Our trainees and fellows remain at the heart of everything we do, and we are proud of their dedication and achievements.

We have also expanded our engagement with stakeholders, including the HSE, Department of

Health, and international partners, to ensure that Irish ophthalmology remains aligned with global best practice. Through education, research, and policy leadership, the College strives to shape a future where high-quality eye care is accessible to all.

I would like to thank our members, trainees, committees, and staff for their ongoing commitment and professionalism. Together, we continue to uphold the standards and values that define our specialty.

Gerry Fahy
President,
Irish College of Ophthalmologists

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

SIOBHAN KELLY

As CEO of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists, I am very pleased to present the 2025 annual report.

This year has been one of steady progress and delivery for the Irish College of Ophthalmologists, as we continued to strengthen our role as both a training body and a representative voice for ophthalmology in Ireland. From an operational perspective, our focus has been on ensuring that the College's programmes, supports, and partnerships are responsive to the evolving needs of our members and the wider health system.

A key priority has been the continued development of our training infrastructure, alongside practical engagement with national stakeholders to support service planning and workforce expansion. We have worked to ensure that the College contributes constructively to policy discussions while maintaining a clear focus on patient access and quality of care.

Central to this progress has been the work of our administrative team, whose professionalism and commitment underpin the day-to-day functioning

of the College. Their efforts have enabled the delivery of a broad range of educational activities, governance processes, and member services to a consistently high standard.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building capacity, supporting our members, and strengthening the systems that enable high-quality ophthalmic care across Ireland.

Sincerely,

Siobhan Kelly
CEO, Irish College of Ophthalmologists

ABOUT THE ICO – who we are

Established in 1992, the Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO) is the training and professional body for medical and surgical eye doctors in Ireland.

The ICO is a registered Irish charity. We are committed to the advancement and improvement of eye health and work to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards of eye care and ophthalmic training.

The delivery of healthcare requires a lifelong commitment to learning. The ICO's goal is to provide and support education and learning for ophthalmologists in training, in practice and those who work alongside them as they deliver care to patients.

OUR ROLE:

1. TRAINING

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists is formally assessed and accredited by the Irish Medical Council. The accreditation by the Medical Council is under section 89(3)(a)(ii) of the Medical Practitioners Act and approves the College as the body which may grant evidence of the satisfactory completion of Specialist Training in Medical Ophthalmology. A certificate of satisfactory completion in specialist training in Medical Ophthalmology is the title and designation of qualification granted in the State, by the Medical Council, to enable a medical practitioner to secure registration in the Specialist Division of the Register, under the terms of Section 89(2) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. The College delivers the National Training Programme in Medical Ophthalmology and in collaboration with the RCSI, Surgical Ophthalmology.

The ICO works alongside our fellow Postgraduate Training Colleges to support the education and training of medical and surgical colleagues in Ireland.

2. ONGOING EDUCATION OF OPHTHALMIC SPECIALISTS

Maintaining and expanding skills, knowledge and competency is essential in medical practice. The ICO delivers a continuous programme of events and online content to support the continued acquisition of knowledge and skills by the profession.

Doctors who hold Specialist, General or Supervised registration with the Irish Medical Council, are required by law to maintain their professional competence and to enroll on a Professional Competence Scheme operated by a Postgraduate Medical Training Body relevant to their scope of practice.

The ICO operates the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) for ophthalmologists and those practicing within the specialty and advises doctors on how to fulfill this commitment and to continuously develop their professional skills.

The ICO remains committed to enhancing and promoting life-long learning and providing on-going professional development support to our members and members of the Integrated Eye Care Team.

3. ADVOCACY

The ICO advocates for the highest standards of eye healthcare delivery in Ireland, on behalf of patients and doctors.

We do this through our influence as the medical authority on eye care practice in Ireland, helping to shape healthcare policy in the interests of the delivery of safe, sustainable, equitable and quality care for all patients.

Through our collaboration with a number of key external stakeholders, including patient support groups, the Health Service Executive, the Department of Health, the Medical Council and the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies, the ICO is focused on demonstrating leadership and guidance on patient centered policy decisions.

The College places a high priority on our role as a trusted source of reliable eye health information for the public. We do this through the promotion of positive eye care practices, and raising awareness of the modifiable risk factors associated with the most common causes of sight loss.

OUR VALUES

Underpinning all ICO activity is a commitment to:

- **Integrity** acting with openness, consideration and respect
- **Collegiality** supporting trainees and members through all stages of their career
- **Innovating** in the delivery of education & healthcare
- **Collaboration** working with others involved in the delivery of eye health care nationally and internationally.

DIRECTORS REPORT*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

- Mr. Gerry Fahy – President and Chair of the Board
- Mr. James O'Reilly – President Elect
- Mr. John Doris – Vice President
- Ms. Nikolina Budimlija
- Ms. Shauna Quinn
- Dr. Christine Bourke
- Dr. Geraldine Comer
- Mr. Tom Flynn
- Prof. Conor Murphy
- Mr. Michéal O'Rourke
- Dr. Mary Jo Ryan
- Dr. Olya Scannell
- Mr. Sean Gallagher

Clinical Lead for the National Clinical Programme in Ophthalmology: Ms. Aoife Doyle

The Board of Directors met on 6 occasions in 2025 and held an AGM on May 23, 2025.

All Board members are Directors of the Company. All Board members are inducted regarding their role and responsibilities.

The term for a Board Director is 3 years, limited to 9 years in total.

Directors of Postgraduate Education:

Miss Yvonne Delaney – Dean of Postgraduate Education (term concluded April 2025)

Dr. Emer Henry – Programme Director, National Training Programme in Medical Ophthalmology

Ms. Christine Goodchild – Co-programme Director, National Training Programme in Surgical Ophthalmology

Ms. Clare McCloskey – Co-programme Director, National Training Programme in Surgical Ophthalmology

Principal Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The principal activity of the College is the education, training, and the running of a professional body for ophthalmologists and ophthalmic surgeons. It is responsible for setting and maintaining standards in ophthalmic training for young ophthalmologists and for continuing medical education for those in practice. The College provides a range of skills courses for trainees and for continuing education.

****The full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 are included under Appendix 1 at the end of this document.***

GOVERNANCE

The ICO is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The voluntary Board of Directors, who are elected from the membership, provides governance oversight and strategic leadership.

As a registered charity, the ICO is committed to compliance with the requirements of the Charities Governance Code and has established its governance structures, policies and procedures to comply with the Code.

ICO Annual General Meeting

The ICO Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 23, 2025.

ICO President Mr John Doris chaired proceedings. He updated members on the activities of the Board, presenting an overview of the ICO committee reports, financial report and 2024 audited accounts, the report from the Board and board elections.

The focus of the Board has continued to be on the regulatory requirements for the specialist training programmes, the provision of ongoing professional education for ophthalmologists in practice and advocating for the expansion of ophthalmology capacity in the health service.

Mr Doris provided an update on the new professional competence scheme framework being implemented by the ICO as required by the Irish Medical Council, and the new rules regarding accreditation of meetings for CPD points.

The College's immense gratitude was expressed to the outgoing Dean of Postgraduate Education, Miss Yvonne Delaney, for her contribution and dedication to the role (2013 – 2025) and to the Consultant Ophthalmic Trainers who contribute to the delivery of the ICO national training programmes in Medical and Surgical Ophthalmology.

The Presidential Chain of Office was officially handed over by Mr John Doris to incoming ICO President Mr Gerry Fahy during the AGM.

ICO Governance – Committee Structure

The committee structures of the College are designed to reflect the core mission of the ICO as a training and educational body.

Committee members are drawn from the ICO membership. On occasion, non-College members, with specific expertise, may be co-opted in an advisory capacity to a committee, if approved by the Board.

ICO committees are structured to ensure a balanced representation across the various areas of practice.

Committees are chaired by Board members, with a clear remit and work plan approved by the Board, to which they report.

The ICO committee structure is as follows:

- Governance and Nominations committee
- Finance committee
- Training committees
 - Training Advisory committee
 - Training Regulations and Standards committee
- Scientific and Continuing Professional Development committee
- Service Development committee

ICO Annual Report 2024

The ICO published its Annual Report 2024 at the AGM on Friday, 23rd May, 2025.

The report provides an update on ICO activities and finances for 2024, in line with the College's responsibilities under the Charities Governance Code and the requirements of the Charities Regulator.

The report was circulated to all ICO members and is published on the ICO website www.eyedoctors.ie

Operational Structure and Funding

The ICO is a membership-based organisation with an annual subscription fee.

Our members and trainees are a very important resource for the College. We rely on this community to help shape our policy, inform our leadership and develop the future of medical education, practice and

healthcare. Our goal is to develop, encourage and continually expand relationships within the College at all levels, from the innovative trainee perspective to the invaluable experience of life and senior members.

A voluntary Board of Directors is elected from the membership to provide governance oversight and policy guidance.

The Chairman of the Board (ICO President), along with the other directors, sets the policy direction for the ICO and oversees the administration of affairs. The Chairman and the Board of Directors are charged with setting the strategy and goals of the ICO. A number of voluntary committees of the Board focus and advise on the specific areas of ICO activity.

The executive team is composed of a Chief Executive along with operational roles within the organisation: training programme manager, professional competence manager, communications and advocacy manager, and

administrative services. The ICO staff are responsible for implementing the strategy and running the day-to-day activities of the College.

Sources of Funding and Reporting

The ICO holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) where our annual accounts are presented to the members for approval. These accounts are also included in our Annual Report, which is published on our website.

The College has a number of income streams;

Members pay an annual subscription fee, the College runs educational events including an annual summer and autumn meeting for which there is a registration fee and a trade exhibition supported by pharmaceutical and instrument and device companies, the College has a service level agreement in place with the HSE for the delivery of specialist training and specialist support for the clinical programme.

ICO CORE ACTIVITIES

1. SPECIALTY TRAINING IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

Promotion of Specialist Training Programme in Medical and Surgical Ophthalmology

In 2025, the College continued its promotional recruitment campaign for Specialist Training in both Medical and Surgical Ophthalmology. The aim of the communications campaign was engagement with the Schools of Medicine, Intern Networks and with the training units to highlight the Medical Ophthalmology programme and exciting career opportunities available to aspiring ophthalmologists, as the College looks to expand the number of training posts year-on-year to align a specialised medical workforce with patient demand.

The College launched a virtual Applications Portal in October 2025, transitioning all programme applications to an online system. This has streamlined the application process while improving the accessibility for applicants. Further developments to the Application Portal are planned to enhance user experience and accessibility.

A dedicated ICO online careers talk was hosted on the 15th October 2025 with a strong attendance for this

year's session. The College outlined the programmes in Medical and Surgical Ophthalmology and respective scorecard requirements. The careers talk also featured talks by Dr Emily Greenan, ICO Basic Surgical Trainee (BST) and Dr Fionnuala Kennedy, ICO Basic Medical Trainee (BMT) who shared their valuable insights into a day in the life of a trainee with the prospective applicants. Dr Ann O'Connell, recent graduate of the Higher Medical Ophthalmology (HMT) training programme and Ms Christine Goodchild, Co-Programme Director for Surgical Ophthalmology provided insight on the route to a consultant post.

We continue to optimise on the opportunities for face-to-face meetings at careers events and talks which present throughout the academic calendar year. In 2025, these included talks at the Galway University Hospital Careers event for interns, medical students and NCHD on October 2nd 2025. The College expresses its gratitude to Dr Fiona Harney, Clinical Lecturer in Ophthalmology, University of Galway, Dr Aoife Smyth, HST trainee and Dr Marcus Conway, BMT trainee for representing 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.

Selection Processes for Basic and Higher Medical and Surgical Ophthalmology Programmes

An increase in applications to the Basic Medical Training programme exhibited a strong interest in Medical Ophthalmology. The College expects applications for both programmes to increase in 2026 again.

Online format for shortlisting and interviews for Basic Medical and Basic Surgical training programmes continued in 2025 and shortlisting for the Higher Surgical Training programme, also took place virtually and will continue to take place virtually for the foreseeable future. Interviews for both higher programmes continue to take place in-person.

Structured Objective Oral Examinations (SOEs) in Higher Medical Training (HMT)

The SOE is a mandatory summative assessment on the HMT Programme. The SOE takes place at the end of each subspecialty module in Medical Retina, Glaucoma and Paediatric Ophthalmology and must be passed by each candidate in order to progress. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure the required standard for independent practice consistent with the standard outlined in the curriculum is achieved. In 2025, SOEs took place in-person on January 16th 2025 for Paediatric Ophthalmology. The SOEs in Medical Retina took place on May 29th 2025 and December 11th 2025 in-person. Two further SOEs took place in person for Glaucoma on May 29th 2025 and December 11th 2025.

Objective Structured Examinations (OSEs) in Higher Surgical Training

The OSE is a formative assessment for trainees in HST Year 6. The OSEs assess the 8 sub specialty areas of the HST curriculum and assess the ability of trainees to evaluate, diagnose and formulate treatment plans for ophthalmic conditions. These assessments serve to encourage ongoing learning and preparation for the final FRCSI exam in Ophthalmology. The OSEs took place virtually on 5th June 2025.

ICO Microsurgical Skills Course

The ICO Microsurgical Skills course took place on August 25th 2025 in the RCSI Simulation Lab in Dublin. The course was delivered by Mr Tim Fulcher and Mr Paul O'Brien for ICO Year 1 BMT, BST and IMGTI trainees. The course provides trainees an opportunity to learn core skills in the wet-lab environment at the beginning of their training.

ICO Anterior Vitrectomy Course

The ICO Anterior Vitrectomy Course for surgical trainees took place on September 23rd and September 24th

2025 at the RCSI Simulation Lab in Dublin. The wet-lab and mock operating theatre facility enables trainees to expand their hands-on technical experience and further progress their development in procedural and technical expertise.

The course was coordinated by Miss Yvonne Delaney. Faculty included Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeons Mr Larry Benjamin, Mr Edward Loane, Mr Paul Connell, Mr Noel Horgan, Mr Patrick Talty, Ms Sarah Moran, Mr Barry Quill, Mr John Doris, Ms Christine Goodchild and Ms Clare McCloskey.

Refraction Course and Strabismus Course

On October 16th 2025, a Refraction course took place in University Hospital Waterford for BST and BMT trainees. The course provided practical training in retinoscopy, subjective refraction and focimetry. Optometrist Sandra Hogan was the course organiser. The course received positive feedback and will run again in 2026 for trainees. The new refraction course preceded the annual strabismus course which also takes place in University Hospital Waterford and is coordinated by orthoptist Aoife MacCann. The ICO is indebted to Sandra and Aoife for their input.

Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training in Medical Ophthalmology

Award of the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) in Medical Ophthalmology allows the Higher Medical Trainee to register on the ophthalmology specialist register of the Irish Medical Council and indicates that the trainee has reached the curricular standards of competence to practice independently as a consultant medical ophthalmologist in Ireland.

2025 saw further graduates of the Higher Medical Training Programme (HMT) and culminated in the awarding of CCST for Dr Shane O'Regan, Dr Ann O'Connell, Dr Bobby Tang, Dr Gareth O'Dwyer, and Dr Melissa Murphy

This is an excellent achievement and the ICO wishes each graduate the very best in their future as Medical Ophthalmologists.

ICO Neuro-Ophthalmology Course

The ICO Neuro-Ophthalmology Course was held on November 20th 2025 in RCSI, Dublin.

The course covered a range of topics including ocular imaging, electrophysiology, papilloedema, special considerations in paediatric neuro-ophthalmology. Additional sessions covered neuro-imaging of the optic pathway, approaches to optic neuropathies and optic neuritis.

The talks were delivered by Dr Duncan Rogers, Dr Lisa McAnena, Dr Áine Ní Mhéalóid, Dr Christine Bourke, Dr Kish Mankad, Dr Patrick Nicholson, Dr Ruchika Batra and Dr Tasanee Braithwaite.

Training Site Accreditation

The accreditation of training posts process is structured on the basis of ensuring that the quality and standard of ophthalmic training is consistent across training posts and equivalent to best practice in the sector. The goal of the accreditation process is to work with the training unit stakeholders to support the continual improvement, knowledge sharing and trainee learning experience while ensuring that the standards and guidelines associated with the accreditation process are implemented in a consistent, fair and transparent way.

The accreditation standards define the minimum set of standards that all training sites must meet and complement the Medical Council criteria for evaluation of training sites, which support the delivery of specialist training. The standards form the basis for training post inspections and audit for all Basic and Higher Ophthalmic Training posts in Surgical and Medical Ophthalmology specialist training. The College will continue further training site accreditations in 2026.

Appointment of New Trainers and Train the Trainer Course

Following the introduction of the trainer portal and online modules, in 2023 the College introduced a new appointment process for Consultants who wish to become trainers with the ICO.

To be eligible to be a trainer with the ICO you must:

- Be registered on the Specialist Division of the Medical Council Register.
- Be registered on a Professional Competence Scheme.
- Practice at a Consultant level ophthalmic post in Ireland.
- Complete the mandatory requirements of the ICO Trainer education modules.

The process for appointment is as follows:

1. Educational Supervisors notifies ICO of new Consultant Appointments in clinical training sites.
2. ICO invites new Consultant to apply to become a trainer with the College.
3. Consultant completes application form.

4. ICO reviews the application against the eligibility criteria.
5. If applicant is eligible, the application is submitted to the Training Regulations and Standards Committee for approval.
7. The Training Regulations and Standards Committee reviews applications and makes a decision to approve or not.
8. ICO notifies Consultant that they are approved subject to the completion of the Train the Trainer module.
9. Approved Consultants are provided with a copy of the ICO Code of Conduct.
10. ICO gives the new trainer access to the ICO Trainer Portal following internal confirmation of completion of the Train the Trainer education modules.

In 2025, the College appointed fourteen new Consultant Trainers.

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI)

The International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI) is a postgraduate medical training programme in ophthalmology for non-EU International medical graduates. There are two streams to the programme. One is coordinated by the HSE National Doctors Training and Planning division, the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies and the Postgraduate Training Bodies. This stream facilitates participants to access a structured period of training and experience as developed by an Irish postgraduate medical training body to specifically meet the clinical needs of participants as defined by their home country's health service. Currently both the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan and the Sudanese Medical Specialisation Board participate in the Programme.

In 2025, three trainees commenced the two-year programme with the ICO. There are currently seven trainees in total on this training pathway.

Cross-Cultural Competence and Effective Communication

On July 18th 2025, a workshop was held for IMGTI trainees in RCSI. The course delivered by Jacqueline King focused on communication across cultural boundaries, navigating sensitive or challenging situations and enhancing safety and professionalism in clinical settings.

The course was delivered at the beginning of training for the IMGTI cohort that commenced in July 2025 and feedback was positive from trainees.

ICO IMGT Clinical Fellowship Programme

The second stream is the ICO IMGT Clinical Fellowship Programme. The Irish College of Ophthalmologists offers clinical fellowship training to international doctors who are sponsored by their government, hospital or national training body. The International Medical Graduate Training Programme (IMGTP) clinical fellowship programme offers a unique opportunity to experience the delivery of complex and sub-specialty healthcare in a broad environment. It is also the opportunity to develop and learn advanced skills that will be especially beneficial for the health service in the Fellow's home country.

The ICO Clinical Fellowship Programme is aimed at those who wish to develop ophthalmic subspecialty expertise. The programme is offered over one to two years of clinical training. The IMGTP programme allows Fellow's access to a structured period of training and education which is completed under the guidance of leading Ophthalmic Consultant Trainers in accredited hospitals in Ireland. Throughout the fellowship, Fellows are supported and mentored by their designated Educational Supervisor, the ICO team and the ICO Surgical Training Programme Director.

In September 2025, the IMGTI Fellowship marked the successful completion of the programme by its second graduate, Dr Abdulrahman Al Abri. We wish Dr Al Abri success in his future endeavours.

2. CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The College ran its Continuing Medical Education series throughout 2025 including the following events:

ICO Annual Conference 2025

The ICO Annual Conference 2025 took place from Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd May at the Kilkenny Convention Centre, Lyrath Estate, Co. Kilkenny. Over 200 ophthalmologists and ICO trainees gathered to hear the latest clinical and scientific updates and developments in the specialty from national and international eye experts.

The topics of focus for symposia were:

General Retina and Genetics, Neuro-ophthalmology, Anterior Segment Surgery and Sustainability.

Invited guest speakers at the General Retina and Genetics symposium were Dr Jose Pulido, Director of the Henry and Corrine Bower Memorial Laboratories for Translational Medicine at Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, Miss Miriam Minihan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London and Mr Paul Kenna, Director of the Ocular Genetics Unit at Trinity College Dublin and Clinical Lecturer in

Ophthalmic Genetics, Research Foundation of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Dublin.

Guest speakers at the Neuro-Ophthalmology symposium, Professor Steffen Hamann, Department of Clinical Medicine at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark and Professor Dan Milea, Head of the Neuro-Ophthalmology Department at the Rothschild Foundation Hospital, Paris, were joined on the panel by ICO members Ms Áine Ní Mhéalóid, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at University Hospital Waterford and Ms Lisa McAnena, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Dublin.

The Anterior Segment Surgery Symposium welcomed guest speakers Mr Leon Au, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital and Mr Daniel Ezra, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London. ICO member Mr Barry Quill, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin also delivered a presentation.

In line with the College's ongoing commitment to addressing the carbon footprint of the specialty, a dedicated Sustainability symposium welcomed guest speakers Mr Tommy Bracken, Strategic Advisor at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin and Dr Anders Bolmstedt, Chair of Health Care Without Harm, Europe alongside Dr Emilie Mahon, Ophthalmology Tutor, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

Other key sessions on the scientific programme included:

Developing Emergency Ophthalmology with guest Mr Felipe Dhawahir-Scala, Consultant Ophthalmic and Vitreoretinal Surgeon and Director of the Acute Ophthalmic Services at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

The Future of Clinical Practice with panelists Mr John Doris, ICO President and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, University Hospital Waterford, Mr James O'Reilly, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, UPMC Auld Evening Hospital Kilkenny and Whitfield Hospital, Waterford and Ms Niamh Collins, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mater Private, Cork.

A Top Ten Tips session provided practical insights and advice from specialists in their respective areas of clinical expertise, including glaucoma, ocular surface disease, and cataract surgery as well as practical guidance on the running of an independent practice, general wellbeing and patient management. Invited speakers were Ms Janice Brady, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Waterford University Hospital, Mr Paul O'Brien, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Blackrock Clinic in Dublin, Mr David Wallace, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Bon Secours Hospital, Kerry and Ms Nikolina Budimlija, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Institute of Eye Surgery Clinic, Waterford and Kildare.

The Annual Conference programme featured workshop sessions on the following topics:

Helping to have Clear Consultations with your Patients presented by Dr Mary McCaffrey, Senior Medical Advisor, Medical Protection Society and Deputy Coroner for Cork City.

An Update on the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology presented by Ms Aoife Doyle, National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology.

Update from Diabetic RetinaScreen co-presented by Ms Helen Kavanagh, Programme Manager and Professor David Keegan, Clinical Director.

European Society of Ophthalmology Lecture

The SOE Young Ophthalmologist Lecture 2025, was presented by Ms Sarah Moran, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, South Infirmity Victoria University Hospital, who spoke on the Management of Cataracts in Patients with Corneal Pathologies.

ICO Medal Winners at the ICO Annual Conference 2025

Sir William Wilde Medal 2025 – Best Poster

"The Preparedness of Ophthalmologists to Manage an Anaphylactic Reaction Post Fluorescein Angiography"

Christopher Sweeney, 3rd Year Medical Student, School of Medicine, University College Cork.

Barbara Knox Medal 2025 – Best Paper

"Automated Retinal Vessel Analysis Reveals Early Treatment Effects of Acetazolamide in Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension"

Dr Brian Woods, Higher Surgical Trainee, ICO.

Annual Mooney Lecture 2025

The Annual Mooney Lecture 2025 was presented by Professor Andrew Dick, Duke Elder Chair and Director of the Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London and Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Bristol, on the evening of Wednesday 21st May during the ICO Annual Conference event in Kilkenny.

Prof Andrew Dick's lecture entitled "Evolution of Treatment Regimens for Uveitis" explored the fundamental principles of ocular immunity and the immune compensatory mechanisms involved. He outlined the immunopathology that underpins intraocular inflammatory disease and how these insights have shaped current treatment strategies for uveitis.

Professor Dick highlighted the significant advancements in the field, including the development of targeted disease taxonomies based on cellular and molecular

mechanisms. Furthermore, he explored future possibilities, including targeted local gene therapy approaches, aiming to induce and maintain remission and achieve a steroid-free life for uveitis patients.

Since 2016, Professor Dick has served as Director of UCL Institute of Ophthalmology and holds the prestigious Duke Elder Chair of Ophthalmology. He is also co-Director of NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology.

The inaugural Mooney Lecture was presented at the ICO Annual Conference in May 1995 by Prof. T.R. Hedges entitled "A History of Neuro-ophthalmology: An American Perspective". The Annual Mooney Lecture is named in honour of the Mooney family for their multigenerational contribution to ophthalmology in Ireland.

Eye Care in Focus Conference 2025

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists hosted its 4th annual Eye Care in Focus conference for the multi-disciplinary eye care team at The Gibson Hotel in Dublin on Wednesday, 1st October, 2025.

The 1-day clinical education meeting is designed for the extended eyecare team working across community and hospital care in Ireland. It provides a unique opportunity for ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, ophthalmic nurses and technicians to come together to discuss current eye care pathways and developments, and facilitate a forum for shared learning across the disciplines.

The programme for the 2025 conference included dedicated sessions on Myopia Management and Care Pathways, Language Barriers in Eye Care, Expanding the Role of the Multidisciplinary Team and a case-based discussion.

Delegates also heard an update on the strategy for eye care and service delivery developments with regards to the HSE National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology from Clinical Lead and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Ms Aoife Doyle. The roll-out of a national standardised cataract-only referral letter was announced at the meeting, which will be made available to referring optometrists and doctors across the six HSE Regional Health Areas. The new template is designed to streamline the referral process, making it more efficient for healthcare professionals, consultants receiving referrals, and ultimately for patients navigating their care pathway.

A special feature at the 2025 conference was a live recording of the podcast Eyes on Tomorrow, hosted by ophthalmologist John Ferris and optometrist Dermot Keogh in conversation with pioneering Irish eye surgeon, Mr Patrick Condon. Mr Condon spoke about his

recently published book *Eye Healthcare – A 90 Year History of Progress* which documents the training and careers of successive generations of Irish ophthalmic surgeons from the 1930s to the present day and charts some of the major advances in eye care and service delivery during that time.

The conference was chaired by ICO President, Mr Gerry Fahy.

The Eye Care in Focus Conference returns in the autumn of 2026, taking place on Wednesday, October 7th, at The Ashling Hotel in Dublin.

ICO Winter Meeting and Annual Montgomery Lecture 2025

The College held its annual Winter Meeting for ICO members on Friday, November 21st, 2025 at the Albert Theatre in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

The session was dedicated to Neuro-ophthalmology, featuring a distinguished panel of experts from both Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Dr Tasanee Braithwaite, Consultant Ophthalmologist in Neuro-ophthalmology and Uveitis at the Medical Eye Unit, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London opened the session with her presentation on Optic Neuritis. The talk provided an overview of the diagnosis and management of the condition, and an update on research into optic neuritis epidemiology, association with systemic and neurologic diseases, and the potential for genetic risk scores to enhance disease prediction. Dr Braithwaite also discussed the consideration of health economic and health system factors on clinical practice patterns and patient outcomes. She takes a particular interest in the holistic care of patients who have vision problems and eye symptoms resulting from autoimmune, autoinflammatory, infectious and neuro-ophthalmic diseases, and manages patients requiring systemic therapy including immunosuppression and biologic therapy.

Miss Ruchika Batra, Consultant Neuro-ophthalmologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham gave her talk on An Approach to Optic Neuropathies. As a member of the skull base and pituitary teams at the unit, Miss Batra believes in multidisciplinary care and has a passion for lifestyle medicine and the holistic care of both patients and colleagues, reflected by her role as Well-being Lead for the West Midlands Ophthalmology Training Programme. Miss Batra is also the Training Programme Director for Medical Ophthalmology and College Tutor for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Dr Patrick Nicholson, Consultant Neuro-interventional Radiologist at Beaumont Hospital and Beacon Hospital discussed Neuro-imaging of the Optic Pathway. Dr Nicholson works as part of a research group focusing on emerging applications of neuro-interventional

techniques and has a special interest in endovascular treatment of neurovascular diseases, robotic endovascular surgery and investigation and treatment of disorders of CSF circulation (including CSF leaks/SIH and idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH)).

The meeting was co-chaired by ICO members and neuro-ophthalmology specialists, Ms Lisa McAnena, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital and Ms Áine Ní Mhéalóid, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

Ms McAnena gave a presentation at the session, addressing the various ocular imaging and electrodiagnostic modalities available to us in the ophthalmology clinic and their respective applications in neuro-ophthalmic conditions.

The speakers at the winter meeting also participated in a dedicated Neuro-ophthalmology Course for ICO trainees, which took place the day before, Thursday, 20th November, in the RCSI. They were joined by co-presenters Dr. Duncan Rogers (Evaluating the Patient with Vision Loss), Dr. Kish Mankad, Consultant Paediatric Neuroradiologist and the Clinical Lead for Paediatric Neuroradiology at Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Dr. Christine Bourke, who gave a joint presentation on Special Considerations in Paediatric Neuro-ophthalmology, and Ms. Áine Ní Mhéalóid who presented on Papilloedema.

Annual Montgomery Lecture 2025

It was a great honour for the College to welcome Professor Anthony King, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust, who delivered the 109th Montgomery Lecture on Friday, 21 November, at the Albert Theatre in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Professor King's lecture, entitled "Journey of an Accidental Academic", charted his experience along the pathway from a rookie researcher to a randomised controlled trial, discussing the realities of undertaking research, while strongly advocating for young ophthalmologists to embark on this journey.

Prof. King is the Chief Investigator of the NIHR funded Treatment of Advanced Glaucoma Study, a multicentre randomised controlled trial comparing primary medical treatment with primary trabeculectomy for people with newly diagnosed advanced glaucoma. He is a past President of the UK and Eire Glaucoma Society and previously served as the Royal College of Ophthalmologist glaucoma lead for the development of a national ophthalmic database for trabeculectomy

The establishment of the Montgomery 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. The inaugural lecture was presented by Dr Euphan Maxwell in 1916 on the subject of "Diagnosis in Uveitis".

3. ICO PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE SCHEME

The ICO operates the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) for doctors practicing as ophthalmologists who are registered with the Irish Medical Council on the General Register and the Specialist Register – Division of Ophthalmology and Division of Ophthalmic Surgery. The PCS is organised and run, in line with the Arrangements Documents with the Medical Council of Ireland.

The ICO supports enrolled doctors in achieving, maintaining and developing their professional competence.

The College provides support in the recording of CPD credits by ensuring credits for all College organised events are directly uploaded to the PCS online portal accounts for events attended. Information on CPD accredited meetings was circulated to doctors via email, the ICO website, the ICO Member's Portal and the ICO newsletter throughout the PCS yearly cycle which runs from May 1 to April 30.

Throughout each PCS yearly Cycle, the College assesses and recognises a range of external educational events for Continuous Professional Development to meet the needs of doctors seeking credits.

Professional Competence has two key components:

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

In the PCS year 2024-2025 (May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025), doctors were required to accumulate 40 CPD credits, recorded across any of the below categories:

- External (maintenance of knowledge and skills)
- Internal (practice evaluation and development)
- Personal Learning
- Research and Teaching

THE NEW MAINTENANCE OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK – MAY 1, 2025

From May 1st 2025 (for PCS Year Cycle 2025-2026), changes were introduced to the PCS requirements.

The updated model upholds high standards of professional practice while maintaining self-directed CPD processes that are relevant to each doctor's scope and stage of practice. The new PCS requirements provide greater flexibility ensuring applicability across diverse medical roles and responsibilities.

Doctors must engage in and record a minimum of 50 points of CPD activity per year, made up as follows:

- Planning CPD – up to 5 CPD credits
- Audit/Quality Improvement Project/ Practice Review – minimum 10 CPD credits
- Work-based Learning – minimum 15 CPD credits
- Accredited Continuing Education – minimum 20 CPD credits
- Assign all eight Domains of Good Professional Practice at least once in every 3 years

This results in an annual requirement of approximately 50 hours of CPD and audit activity for doctors to complete each scheme year.

ICO Annual Educational Programme to support PCS engagement from Jan – Dec 2025:

- ICO Annual Conference 2025
- ICO Conference extra sessions: Breakfast Sessions on Anti-Vegf medication and Diabetic Macular Oedema and an afternoon Session on Retinal Conditions
- European Society of Ophthalmology Lecture 2025 (ICO Annual Conference)
- Eye Care in Focus 2025 – ICO Conference for the Extended Eye Care Team
- Charter Day Ophthalmology Parallel Session
- ICO Winter Meeting 2025
- Annual Montgomery Lecture 2025
- Annual Mooney Lecture 2025
- ICO National Practice Audit

For support of doctors on the IMGTI programme and supervised division of the register:

- ICO National Tutorial Series in Ophthalmology
- Phaco Bootcamp

- Microsurgical Skills Course
- Anterior Vitrectomy Course

End of PCS year 2024/25 (Jan – April 2025)

The ICO planned for the final four months of the PCS 2025/25 year (Jan – April 2025) to ensure there were regular check-ins, giving enrolled doctors adequate time to participate in any learning activities before the end of the PCS year on 30th April. Comparison of the previous year's enrolled list with the current year enrolled list was regularly carried out to identify any doctors who would benefit from a reminder to enroll.

Clinical Practice Audit or Quality Improvement Project

As part of the PCS requirements for doctors, an audit of practice or quality improvement project must be completed. Presuming that the audit or improvement project takes 10 hours, this brings the annual requirements to 50 hours of CPD activity.

The purpose of the audit is to establish if best practice is being adhered to for quality assurance and improvement purposes.

To assist members in meeting the audit/quality improvement requirement, the ICO provides project proposals to our members each year and a platform to log the details and results of the audit at the end of the PCS year 2024/25 (April 30th 2025), the ICO recorded the audit credit on the PCS online accounts of those who participated.

Start of PCS year 2025/26 (May – Dec 2025)

In the lead up to the changes being implemented from May 1, 2025 under the Medical Council's New Maintenance of Professional Competence, the College provided ongoing guidance, information and support to those enrolled on our scheme in preparation for the transition. A new PCS portal was launched on May 1st, 2025.

The updates included the renaming of CPD categories and a requirement for all doctors to complete an annual Mandatory Professional Development Plan. Enrolled medical practitioners are required to engage in and record 50 hours of CPD activity annually.

Summary of Key Changes

- Engaged vs Not Engaged in the Practice of Medicine:
A major change introduces the classification of either "Engaged in the Practice of Medicine" or "Not Engaged in the Practice of Medicine" status, which directly influences how the annual CPD requirements are applied.

- Mandatory Professional Development Plan (PDP):

Completing a Professional Development Plan is now required, helping to reflect, plan and focus learning objectives that align with personal and professional goals.

- The Practice Review Category:

The Audit/Quality Improvement category has been expanded to include Audit, Quality Improvement Projects and Practice Evaluation. A minimum of 10 credits (10 hours) is required in this category.

- Renamed CPD Categories:

While the core activities have not changed significantly, the names of the CPD categories have been updated for clarity and transparency.

- Domains of Good Professional Practice

Doctors must ensure that they have documented engagement in all eight Domains of Good Professional Practice at least once every three years.

4. NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY

The National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology was established in 2013. Ms Aoife Doyle is the HSE National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology (appointed in December 2023) and a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin.

The ICO has been a long-standing advocate for the expansion of ophthalmology services for patients in Ireland and continues to work alongside the programme, the HSE and the Department of Health to support the implementation of the new Integrated Eye Care Teams (IECT) to extend the delivery of specialist ophthalmic care in the community. The integration of acute and community services is an essential part of the programme's work in order to allow for the rebalancing of access and delivery of eye care services from hospitals to the community.

The objective of the programme is to support the expansion of capacity and provide support in improving efficiency in both paediatric and adult services.

Ms Aoife Doyle gave a keynote address at the Irish College of Ophthalmologists Eye Care in Focus Conference (October 1st, 2025) where she spoke to the audience of eye care professionals about the work of the Clinical Programme and current priorities

Investment in information technology.

Having a shared digital clinical record visible in both the

hospital and the community clinics is essential to allow for efficient and safe shared care by the eye care teams. This is particularly important for the transfer of patients from the hospital to the community and for high volume procedures such as cataract surgery and medical retina injections, and to ease the burden on the hospital system.

Eighty percent of ophthalmology care falls within the category of cataract, medical retina, glaucoma and paediatric (NCP in Ophthalmology Model of Eye Care Strategy, 2017). A high proportion of work in these disease categories is suitable for care in the community.

Units with the shared clinical record can achieve greater efficiency in patient care, have a reduced administrative burden, and can safely refer patients from the community directly for cataract surgery in the hospital. The community clinics can also accept patients from the hospitals who require ongoing treatment and management of medical retinal conditions.

The HSEs national electronic health record is being rolled out over the next number of years, however in the interim, there is an urgent need to provide a solution for the integrated eye teams, most particularly in regions where a large infrastructure and staff investment has been made in primary care centres.

Priority regions include:

- HSE West/Northwest – Ophthalmology service in University Hospital Galway (UHG) is linked with Castlebar, Roscommon and Galway primary care. A shared clinical record between the sites is required.
- HSE Dublin/Southeast – The high-volume cataract theatre in University Hospital Waterford (UHW) has significantly increased surgical activity in the unit. An integrated eye care team is being established in Waterford Primary Care Centre with further plans for Tipperary South. The shared care model, underpinned by a shared clinical record, is essential to safely implement the patient pathways.
- HSE Southwest – Shared care of patients between South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH) and Ballincollig PCC is being implemented. A shared digital clinical record is required to develop and expand the service.

Development and Investment in Eye Care Services

The implementation of care pathways has significantly improved paediatric waiting lists in many regions across the country as a result of the primary care clinics, and combined clinics with the optometrists and orthoptists, under the supervision of the medical ophthalmologist.

Children's waiting lists have been eliminated in some regions (Galway and northeast) and in Dublin south east

and midlands, patients are seen within 15 weeks, reaching Slaintecare targets. There is continued focus on expanding this model of care nationwide.

Cataract is the next pathway that is being prioritised, with significant work also underway in the area of age-related maculopathy. This will be a considerable task as it involves the delivery of procedures (intravitreal injections) in a primary care setting.

Cataract patients remain in the long waiters in many regions, patients with other eye conditions, such as macular degeneration and glaucoma, often need to access care more urgently due to the risk of more immediate sight loss in the absence of intervention.

The Clinical Programme is focused on expanding access to surgical care to address patient waiting times for cataract surgery, which remains the highest volume surgical procedure in Ireland with significant quality of adjusted life years benefit for the patient.

Clinical referral pathways – standardised cataract-only referral template

A standardised cataract-only referral template has been developed and will be made available to referring optometrists and doctors across the HSE Regional Health Areas.

The new template has been designed to streamline the referral process, making it more efficient for healthcare professionals (optometrists and GP's) and the consultants receiving referrals, and ultimately for patients navigating their care pathway.

This referral form provides the minimum dataset required to allow the hospital team to identify patients likely to need surgery at the point of referral and to allocate them directly to one of the cataract care pathways.

It follows guidelines established under the NHS 'Getting it Right First Time' (GIRFT) programme. Certain measures from the GIRFT guidelines for cataract surgery have been adopted in a number of units around the country with high volume dedicated cataract theatres active in most regions as well as "one-stop shop" dedicated pre assessment clinics for cataract in the community eye care units. The clinics are reducing the number of patient visits from three or four down to a single visit and shortened the time from listing to cataract surgery. The use of the dedicated referral form aims to maximise the number of patients listed for surgery at these clinics. Levels of conversion to surgery as high as 90-95% have been achieved in some units in the UK.

At the pre-assessment, the patient will often see a technician first and have their visual acuity measured, with the optometrist doing the refraction, biometry and documentation, and a medical assessment with a nurse

checking any risk factors or red flags, medication history and suitability for surgery. With this information, the Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist will classify the patient according to which pathway they should be on.

A number of questions on the referral form are aimed at minimising unnecessary referrals which take up capacity in the clinics;

- Is the presence of cataract impacting on the patient's quality of life?
- Has the patient been informed of the nature of cataract surgery and given an information leaflet?
- Has the patient said they are willing to undergo cataract surgery if it's offered in the near future? This question is very important for patients who may have reduced visual acuity but are managing very well with their daily living, may not drive and don't wish to have the surgery yet.
- Is the visual acuity of 6/9 or worse, and if not, why is the patient being referred? Reasons may include posterior subcapsular cataract layer, glare or various other issues.
- Is the referral urgent?

Further information can be added to the form with regards the patient's suitability for surgery and other considerations for the clinic in order to get maximum value from this first visit (hearing or mobility difficulties, overall health status and medication, need for an interpreter etc).

Experience in the HSE Dublin and North East region, where a standardised cataract referral process is now in operation, has been very positive and resulted in higher surgery conversion rates of patients to surgery.

The Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology is working with Healthlink to make the referral form available digitally through the platform.

5. ADVOCACY

Planning for our Future Ophthalmology Workforce

Promoting the National Training Programme in Medical Ophthalmology

The ICO and the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology have worked extensively with the HSE and Department of Health in recent years to ensure the expansion of the delivery of specialist ophthalmic care to patients outside of the traditional acute setting, through an integrated model of care between the acute hospitals and community setting.

This follows the strategic training and workforce planning decision by the ICO in 2018 to launch a

standalone National Training Programme in Medical Ophthalmology.

The purpose of the Medical Ophthalmology programme is to better align our ophthalmology workforce with the areas of greatest patient demand now and in the future, namely medical retina, glaucoma and paediatrics

The College engages with the Schools of Medicine, intern networks and all key stakeholders to inform prospective applicants of the standalone Medical Ophthalmology programme

The College, in its remit as a registered charity and through its core function as the education and training body for eye specialists, recognises the significant importance of supporting and advocating on behalf of both patients and doctors in striving for the best eye healthcare system possible in Ireland.

We endeavour to carry out this duty of care through our ongoing collaboration with patient support groups on our shared goals and demonstrating leadership on healthcare practice and patient focused policy decisions.

Sustainability in Eye Care – ICO Annual Conference 2025

The College has placed a priority on addressing sustainability in eyecare and looked at the ways in which we can facilitate greater awareness and educational support on this important matter to support our members.

We have committed to including a focus on quality improvement and sustainability at the ICO Annual Conference every year, where members and trainees can share their knowledge and experience of the measures they are implementing.

The dedicated Sustainability symposium took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 21st May. The panel of experts included international guest speaker Dr Anders Bolmstedt, Chair of Health Care Without Harm Europe (Sweden), Mr Tommy Bracken, Strategic Advisor at Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Dr Emilie Mahon, RCSI Ophthalmology Tutor at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

Dr Bolmstedt's talk "Why and How to Reduce Harmful Chemicals in Healthcare" addressed the often-overlooked presence of hazardous substances in clinical environments, many of which pose risks to both human health and the environment. He outlined practical strategies to identify and phase out harmful chemicals from healthcare settings, contributing to safer, more sustainable care delivery

Mr Tommy Bracken provided a local perspective with his presentation "The Sustainability Journey at the RVEEH," outlining how the hospital has begun integrating

sustainability into its operations. From reducing waste to introducing greener procurement practices, Mr Bracken shared key lessons learned and ongoing goals for the institution's sustainability roadmap.

Dr Emilie Mahon – who also spoke at the Sustainability in Ophthalmology symposium at the ICO Annual Conference in 2024 – presented her ongoing research on the carbon footprint of cataract surgery at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. Dr Mahon highlighted that cataract surgery, as the most frequently performed operation, presents a key opportunity to reduce emissions. She outlined that by measuring the carbon emissions from cataract procedures and exploring how they can be minimised, we can better focus our efforts to meet the 2030 and 2050 net zero targets.

The recordings from the conference were uploaded and shared with ICO members via our members portal Sustainability Education Resource.

Eye Health Advocacy and Awareness

The ICO is committed to providing information and guidance to the public about eye diseases and treatments, eye health news and advice for a lifetime of good eye health.

We endeavor through our communication to encourage people to take positive steps to protect their sight, an action aimed at ultimately improving the nation's eye health and contributing towards a reduction in avoidable sight loss.

The ICO supports national and global eye health awareness campaigns throughout the calendar year, including the annual Pan Ireland Ophthalmology Event, World Glaucoma Week, World Diabetes Day and World Sight Day.

The aim is to encourage the public to remember eye health as part of their overall good health & well-being management, particularly as people age and for those in the higher risk categories.

Pan Ireland Ophthalmology Event 2025

The 9th Pan Ireland Ophthalmology Meeting took place in Belfast on the 10th October 2025, organised by the ophthalmology department at Queen's University Belfast and supported by the Irish College of Ophthalmologists.

The event coincides with World Sight Day (Thursday, 9th October 2025) annually, aimed at focusing attention on the global issue of avoidable blindness and visual impairment. The meeting provides a valuable opportunity for ophthalmologists, scientists, and trainees from across the island to share their clinical and

basic scientific research and to strengthen collaboration between colleagues in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Mr Gerry Fahy, ICO President opened the afternoon case and research presentation session alongside Professor Ian Bruce – Pro-Vice Chancellor for the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, Queen's University Belfast.

The morning programme featured a series of lectures exploring advances in retinal physiology, and included presentations from Prof Tim Curtis (QUB) who spoke about insights into retinal blood flow regulation, Prof Matthew Campbell (Trinity College Dublin) on the inner retinal blood barrier, Prof Omar Mahoo (Moorfields Eye Hospital, London) discussed developments in electrophysiology and Dr Anette Allen discussed human visual neural circuits and circadian behavior.

This was followed by a dedicated research session showcasing innovative work from emerging researchers across Ireland. The afternoon featured clinical presentations covering a diverse range of topics. The event places a strong emphasis on collaboration and shared learning for ophthalmologist practicing across Ireland

The 2026 meeting (on the 8th and 9th October 2026) will be the 10th anniversary of the Pan Ireland meeting and plans are already underway for an exciting memorable programme which the ICO looks forward to supporting and participating in.

Practitioner Health Matters Programme

The Practitioner Health Matters Programme (PHMP), supporting and advocating for the wellbeing of doctors, those in training and in practice, is a key priority for the ICO. Delivering high quality and safe healthcare is a demanding job. The link between physician wellbeing and patient outcomes is well documented.

The College continued its financial contributions to the PHMP in 2025 and reminded our members and trainee doctors of the programme which provides a strictly confidential service to doctors and healthcare practitioners seeking confidential medical assistance.

The service aims to provide support and psychological care for doctors, dentists and pharmacists who may have a mental health issue or who may have developed a substance use issue.

Physician Wellness Support Services

The ICO welcomes the expansion of support services available to doctors, including the introduction of the Medical Council's CareHub in 2024. This platform, along

with other dedicated clinician support services, is regularly communicated to our members and young ophthalmologists to emphasise the importance of mental health and overall well-being among physicians.

In 2025, the ICO created a dedicated page on our website with contact information for the various support services for doctors – Care Hub, Practitioner Health Matters, HSE NCHD Hub, HSE Silver Cloud Health and ICGP ‘Get a GP’.

Patient Advocacy Group Engagement

The College is committed to engaging closely with eye health patient support organisations, promoting eye health awareness and patient advocacy.

Throughout 2025 the College continued this important engagement and received educational material from the various patient organisations. The information was added to the ICO members portal ‘patient supports’ resource and signposted to our members and trainees. The resources were also added to our public facing website www.eyedoctors.ie ‘Patient Support’ section.

ICO Newsletter, eBulletin and Social Media

The ICO newsletter provides updates to our membership and stakeholders on news and developments taking place in the specialty and is an important means to capture our key activities, including our advocacy outreach. It is circulated directly to our members by post and email via our monthly e bulletin and available electronically on our website for all stakeholders and the public to access. It is emailed separately to a list of key external stakeholders and policy decision makers to promote greater understanding of the role and function of the College in line with our charitable purpose – advancing eye health care in Ireland.

The ICO uses various social media platforms (BlueSky, LinkedIn and Instagram) to engage with key health care partners, patient advocacy groups and decision makers in the interest of eye health promotion, supporting members and increasing public awareness of relevant College updates and eye health related news.

ICO website – www.eyedoctors.ie

The ICO website, www.eyedoctors.ie, is a valuable resource for the public to access trusted and reliable eye health information.

In 2025, we continued to highlight the College's key activities on the website, keeping the public and our key stakeholders informed. This included the quarterly publication of our members newsletter and ophthalmology events listings. Ongoing engagement by the College with vision advocacy organisations

resulted in additional patient information resources being shared with the College, and in turn signposted for visitors to our website under the 'Your Eye Health' section.

The website also hosts a Directory of ICO members, allowing visitors to search for an ophthalmologist by name, location and/or area of subspecialty. New members of the College who are practicing ophthalmologists in Ireland were added to the directory throughout 2025.

ICO position papers, statements, press releases and reports were published throughout the year under the News and Health Policy sections.

ICO Members Portal

The College continued to utilise the ICO members portal as our primary method of e-communication with members throughout the year. The portal houses online learning resources, and serves as a one-stop location for guidance and support.

In 2025, several resource pages were updated to the portal, including patient information from key patient advocacy groups. These resources are designed to assist doctors in delivering care to patients and enhance and improve the patient experience.

A dedicated ICO Trainers and Trainees portal is available to support and inform this membership base, and was continually updated throughout 2025 with relevant documentation and materials for those in training and to aid the Consultant trainers.

Global Ophthalmology and International Representation

A primary commitment of the ICO is to stimulate and support communication and collaboration among ophthalmologic societies and ophthalmologists globally, particularly on initiatives to preserve and restore vision.

The College focuses on nurturing key external and international relationships, influencing and supporting policy decisions that are based on best patient outcome and the highest standards of patient safety.

We collaborate with national and international blindness prevention committees, overseas training institutions, training hospitals, ministries of health and other local stakeholders in countries.

The ICO has influential relationships and partnerships with international peers and continues to develop strong bonds through our representation with the following organisations:

- The ICO is a member of the International Council for Ophthalmology (ICO) which represents and serves professional associations of ophthalmologists throughout the world
- European Board of Ophthalmology – the Ophthalmology Subspecialty Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists
- Royal College of Ophthalmologists – The ICO nurtures and supports important ties with our UK counterpart training and professional body for Ophthalmologists.
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
- Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology
- European Society of Ophthalmology
- SOE Young Ophthalmologists – the SOE Young Ophthalmologists group aims to serve the collective needs of YOs in Europe who are in training or in their first 5 years of independent practice. A nominated ICO trainee represents their fellow doctors in Ireland.

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative

The International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI) is a postgraduate medical training programme in ophthalmology for non-EU International medical graduates.

The programme is coordinated by the HSE National Doctors Training and Planning division, the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies and the Postgraduate Training Bodies.

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan and the Sudanese Medical Specialisation Board are the participants. This initiative facilitates Doctors to access a structured period of training and experience to meet the needs of their home country's health service. The period of clinical training provided is ordinarily 24 months, after which the Doctor must return to their country of origin either Pakistan or Sudan.

Ophthalmic training by the ICO under the IMGTI is provided in clinical departments approved for postgraduate specialist training in Ophthalmology, tailored to meet the IMGTI appointee's educational and training objectives and takes into account the needs of the health service in the doctor's home country.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The annual accounts of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists are published annually.

Independent Auditors Report

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Name: | Irish College of Ophthalmologists |
| Registered Office: | 121, St Stephen's Green |
| Registration Numbers: | |
| Company Registration Number | CRO 151473 |
| Registered Charity Number | 20028039 |
| Revenue Charity Number | CHY10781 |
| Tax Reference Number | IE6548873V |
| Auditor | UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited Unit 4A Fingal Bay Business Park Balbriggan Co. Dublin |
| Business address | 121 St Stephens Green Dublin 2 Ireland |
| Bankers | Bank of Ireland 39 St. Stephens Green East Dublin 2 Ireland |
| Solicitors | Cormac O Ceallaigh Cormac O Ceallaigh & Company Phibsborough, Dublin 7 and Ashford, Co. Wicklow |

APPENDIX 1



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Companies Act 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)¹ (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The principal activity is the running of a professional body for ophthalmologists and ophthalmic surgeons. It is responsible for setting and maintaining standards in ophthalmic training for young ophthalmologists and for continuing medical education for those in practice. The company provides a range of skills courses for trainees and for continuing education.

Achievements and performance

The College continued to oversee and deliver specialist training for ophthalmologists, both for those in training and for those in practice. The College is accredited by the Irish Medical Council. With that accreditation comes a range of regulatory requirements. Coupled with the responsibility of running the training programmes, the College must allocate significant resources to specialty training to ensure that requirements and responsibilities are met. The development of capacity within the administrative structure to meet these requirements continues. The College continued to support the delivery of the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology and to deliver a Professional Competence Scheme.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Having navigated our way through the Covid Pandemic of 2020 – 2021, the outbreak of the War in Ukraine in 2022 and now developments in the Middle East, there continues to be great uncertainty in the global economy and the College has had to deal with the ever increasing costs and inflation. We continue to prudently manage all expenditure and on this basis the directors are satisfied the organisation can continue as a going concern. The College has a service level agreement with the HSE for the delivery of specialist training. The funding received through this does not cover the entire cost of the delivery of the specialty training programmes and is supplemented by the College from other funds. While this is feasible in the short to medium term, over the longer term reconsideration may be necessary.

Financial review

The surplus for the year after providing for depreciation and accounting for the decrease in fair value of investments amounts to €92,488 (2024: €240,490). The charity received a grant of €Nil (2024: €234,807) from the HSE to purchase a surgical simulator to practice cataract surgery.

At the year end, the company has assets of €2,001,869 (2024: €2,211,353) and liabilities of €47,864 (2024: €349,836).

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| John Paul Doris | |
| Tim Fulcher | (Resigned 23 May 2025) |
| Elizabeth McElnea | (Resigned 23 May 2025) |
| Mark James | (Resigned 23 May 2025) |
| James O'Reilly | |
| Gerald Fahy | |
| Olya Scannell | |
| Conor Murphy | |
| Shauna Quinn | |
| Sean Gallagher | |
| Micheal O'Rourke | |
| Mary-Jo Ryan | |
| Geraldine Comer | |
| Nikolina Budimlija | (Appointed 23 May 2025) |
| Christine Bourke | (Appointed 23 May 2025) |
| Thomas Flynn | (Appointed 23 May 2025) |

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

Brona Kavanagh

During the year ended 31 December 2025, the following director were appointed to the following roles:

Gerald Fahy: President

James O'Reilly: President Elect John Paul Doris: Vice President

Accounting records

The charity's directors acknowledge their responsibilities under sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 to ensure that the charity keeps adequate accounting records. The following measures have been taken:

- employing qualified and/or experienced staff, and
- ensuring that sufficient charity resources are available for the task, and
- liaising with the charity's auditor.

The accounting records are held at the company's business premises, 121 St Stephens Green Dublin 2 Co. Dublin Ireland.

Auditor

In accordance with the Companies Act 2014, section 383(2), UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited continue in office as auditor of the company.

Post reporting date events

There have been no significant events affecting the charity since the year end.

Charitable Status

The company holds a charitable status (CHY No 10781 RCN 20028039) and as such is exempt from corporation tax in accordance in accordance with Section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the directors in office at the date of approval of this annual report confirms that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the director has taken all the steps that he / she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself / herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

The directors' report was approved by the Board of Directors.

James O'Reilly

Director – President Elect

Gerald Fahy

Director – President

Date: _____

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

| | | Unrestricted funds 2025 | Restricted funds 2025 | Total 2025 | Unrestricted funds 2024 | Restricted funds 2024 | Total 2024 |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Notes | € | € | € | € | € | € |
| Income from: | | | | | | | |
| Other trading activities | 3 | 376,109 | 455,710 | 831,819 | 369,511 | 385,935 | 755,446 |
| Other material income | 4 | - | - | - | - | 234,807 | 234,807 |
| Total income | | <u>376,109</u> | <u>455,710</u> | <u>831,819</u> | <u>369,511</u> | <u>620,742</u> | <u>990,253</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | 234,946 | 491,286 | 726,232 | 217,017 | 538,782 | 755,799 |
| Total expenditure | | <u>234,946</u> | <u>491,286</u> | <u>726,232</u> | <u>217,017</u> | <u>538,782</u> | <u>755,799</u> |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | 10 | (13,099) | - | (13,099) | 6,036 | - | 6,036 |
| Net income and movement in funds | | <u>128,064</u> | <u>(35,576)</u> | <u>92,488</u> | <u>158,530</u> | <u>81,960</u> | <u>240,490</u> |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | | |
| Fund balances at 1 January 2025 | | <u>1,705,458</u> | <u>156,059</u> | <u>1,861,517</u> | <u>1,546,928</u> | <u>74,099</u> | <u>1,621,027</u> |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2025 | | <u>1,833,522</u> | <u>120,483</u> | <u>1,954,005</u> | <u>1,705,458</u> | <u>156,059</u> | <u>1,861,517</u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

| | Notes | 2025 | | 2024 | |
|---|-------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | | € | € | € | € |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 11 | | 207,314 | | 237,121 |
| Investments | 12 | | 1,046,437 | | 1,059,536 |
| | | | <u>1,253,751</u> | | <u>1,296,657</u> |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 13 | 46,942 | | 93,601 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 701,176 | | 821,0954 | |
| | | <u>748,118</u> | | <u>914,696</u> | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 14 | (47,864) | | (349,836) | |
| | | <u></u> | | <u></u> | |
| Net current assets | | | 700,254 | | 564,860 |
| | | | <u></u> | | <u></u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 1,954,005 | | 1,861,517 |
| | | | <u></u> | | <u></u> |
| The funds of the charity | | | | | |
| Restricted income funds | | | 120,483 | | 156,059 |
| Unrestricted funds | | | 1,833,522 | | 1,705,458 |
| | | | <u>1,954,005</u> | | <u>1,861,517</u> |
| | | | <u></u> | | <u></u> |

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on _____

James O'Reilly
 Director

Gerald Fahy
 Director

Company registration number 151473 (Republic of Ireland)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

| | Notes | € | 2025 | € | € | 2024 | € |
|---|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | | | |
| Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations | 22 | | (118,934) | | | 558,156 | |
| Investing activities | | | | | | | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (985) | | (236,145) | | | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | | | | | | | |
| | | | (985) | | | (236,145) | |
| Net cash used in financing activities | | | | | | | |
| | | | – | | | – | |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | | | | | | |
| | | | (119,919) | | | 322,011 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | | 821,095 | | | 499,084 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | | | | | | | |
| | | | 701,176 | | | 821,095 | |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Ireland. The registered office is 121 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in euro, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest €.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grants from governments and institutional donors, are recognised as income when the activities which they are intended to fund have been undertaken, the related expenditure incurred, and there is reasonable certainty of receipt.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Plant and equipment | 12.5% straight line |
| Fixtures and fittings | 12.5% straight line |
| Computers | 33.33% straight line |

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The directors believe that there are no estimates or assumptions that had, or are likely to have within the next financial year, a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of the assets and liabilities.

3 Income from charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Restricted funds 2025 € | Total 2025 € | Total 2024 € |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Membership subscriptions | 70,095 | - | 70,095 | 72,300 |
| Ongoing Professional Education | 30,276 | - | 30,276 | 27,391 |
| Professional Competence Scheme | 29,150 | - | 29,150 | 23,750 |
| Bursary Grant | 20,000 | - | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Educational Grant | - | - | - | 20,000 |
| Specialist Training - HSE Income | - | 294,402 | 294,402 | 233,657 |
| Clinical Programme - HSE Income | - | 161,308 | 161,308 | 132,278 |
| Fellowship International Programme | 26,667 | - | 26,667 | 40,000 |
| Other Income - (medical council) | 5,800 | - | 5,800 | 2,900 |
| Annual Conference | 169,650 | - | 169,650 | 151,240 |
| Eyecare in Focus | 24,110 | - | 24,110 | 31,930 |
| Bank interest received | 361 | - | 361 | - |
| Total | 376,109 | 455,710 | 831,819 | 755,446 |

4 Other material income

Last financial year, the College has received a grant from the HSE of €234,807 to purchase a surgical simulator to practice cataract surgery. Trainees have access to the simulator for training sessions which will make a very important contribution to the development of their surgical skills. The income was recognised last year in the Statement of Financial Activities which is in line with SORP. The depreciation in relation to the asset has been released in to Statement of Financial Activities will continue to do so over the next seven years..

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Restricted funds 2025 € | Total 2025 € | Total 2024 € |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Staff costs | 52,796 | 224,352 | 277,148 | 281,121 |
| Specialist training | 20,969 | 114,858 | 135,827 | 146,538 |
| Accreditation Project | - | - | - | 67,414 |
| Clinical Programme | - | 127,587 | 127,587 | 105,387 |
| Bursary grants paid | - | - | - | 20,000 |
| Conference costs | 90,325 | - | 90,325 | 73,697 |
| Eyecare in Focus | 12,721 | - | 12,721 | 12,891 |
| College expenses | 20,502 | 20,503 | 41,005 | 37,343 |
| Audit fees | 2,827 | 2,827 | 5,654 | 5,227 |
| Legal & professional fees | 2,856 | - | 2,856 | 2,733 |
| Bank charges | 1,158 | 1,159 | 2,317 | 381 |
| Depreciation and impairment | 30,792 | - | 30,792 | 3,067 |
| | 234,946 | 491,286 | 726,232 | 755,799 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 6 Net movement in funds | 2025 | 2024 |
| | € | € |

Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements | 5,654 | 5,227 |
| Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets | 30,792 | 3,067 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

7 Directors

None of the directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| | Number | Number |
| Administration | 6 | 6 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Employment costs

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| | € | € |
| Wages and salaries | 238,721 | 243,214 |
| Social security costs | 26,322 | 26,870 |
| Pension costs | 12,105 | 11,037 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | <u>277,148</u> | <u>281,121</u> |

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than €70,000 is as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| | Number | Number |
| €80,000 to €90,000 | 1 | 1 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel during the financial year is as follows.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2025 | 2024 |
| | € | € |
| Aggregate compensation | 202,163 | 206,076 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

9 Accreditation Project

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Three year Project: Year Two Costs | - | - |
| Three year Project: Year Three Costs | - | 67,414 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>67,414</u> |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>67,414</u> |

The Programme of Speciality Training in Ophthalmology was formally accredited by the Medical Council in 2021. The implementation of the Medical Council conditions and recommendations requires additional resources.

The budget for specialist training has been increased to reflect the increased resources for the Dean from 0.4 to 0.8 WTE.

10 Gains and losses on investments

| | Unrestricted funds 2025 € | Unrestricted funds 2024 € |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gains/(losses) arising on: | | |
| Revaluation of investments | (13,099) | 6,036 |
| | <u>(13,099)</u> | <u>6,036</u> |

11 Tangible fixed assets

| | Plant and equipment € | Fixtures and fittings € | Computers € | Total € |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cost | | | | |
| At 1 January 2025 | 234,807 | 17,907 | 7,440 | 260,154 |
| Additions | - | - | 985 | 985 |
| | <u>234,807</u> | <u>17,907</u> | <u>8,425</u> | <u>261,139</u> |
| At 31 December 2025 | 234,807 | 17,907 | 8,425 | 261,139 |
| | <u>234,807</u> | <u>17,907</u> | <u>8,425</u> | <u>261,139</u> |
| Depreciation and impairment | | | | |
| At 1 January 2025 | - | 17,907 | 5,126 | 23,033 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | 29,351 | - | 1,441 | 30,792 |
| At 31 December 2025 | 29,351 | 17,907 | 6,567 | 53,825 |
| | <u>29,351</u> | <u>17,907</u> | <u>6,567</u> | <u>53,825</u> |
| Carrying amount | | | | |
| At 31 December 2025 | 205,456 | - | 1,858 | 207,314 |
| | <u>205,456</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,858</u> | <u>207,314</u> |
| At 31 December 2024 | 234,807 | - | 2,314 | 237,121 |
| | <u>234,807</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,314</u> | <u>237,121</u> |

| 12 Fixed asset investments | Unlisted investments € |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cost or valuation | |
| At 1 January 2025 | 1,059,536 |
| Valuation changes | (13,099) |
| At 31 December 2025 | <u>1,046,437</u> |
| Carrying amount | |
| At 31 December 2025 | <u>1,046,437</u> |
| At 31 December 2024 | <u>1,059,536</u> |

| 13 Debtors | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| Trade debtors | 44,886 | 82,743 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 2,056 | 10,858 |
| | <u>46,942</u> | <u>93,601</u> |

| 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Notes | € | € |
| Other taxation and social security | | 24,467 | 23,897 |
| Deferred income | 17 | 4,080 | 37,377 |
| Trade creditors | | 11,925 | 281,404 |
| Other creditors | | 2,164 | 1,930 |
| Accruals | | 5,228 | 5,228 |
| | | <u>47,864</u> | <u>349,836</u> |

Trade creditors are broken down as follows:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| • Normal trade creditors | 11,925 | 46,597 |
| • Simulator | - | 234,807 |
| | <u>11,925</u> | <u>281,404</u> |

15 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024: None noted).

16 Retirement benefit schemes

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| Defined contribution schemes | | |
| Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes | 12,105 | 11,037 |
| | <u>12,105</u> | <u>11,037</u> |

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

17 Deferred income

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| Deferred income | 4,080 | 37,377 |
| | <u>4,080</u> | <u>37,377</u> |

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | € | € |
| Deferred income is included within: | | |
| Current liabilities | 4,080 | 37,377 |
| | <u>4,080</u> | <u>37,377</u> |
| | <u>4,080</u> | <u>37,377</u> |

The deferred income as at 31 December 2025 includes the following:

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| • Membership fees: | 4,080 | 10,710 |
| • International Fellowship: | - | 26,667 |
| | <u>4,080</u> | <u>€37,377</u> |
| | <u>4,080</u> | <u>€37,377</u> |

18 Statement of funds

| | Balance 1 January 2025 | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Transfers | Balance 31 December 2025 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | € | € | € | € | € |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | 1,705,458 | 376,109 | (248,045) | - | 1,833,522 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 156,059 | 455,710 | (491,286) | - | 120,483 |
| | <u>1,861,517</u> | <u>831,819</u> | <u>(739,331)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,954,005</u> |
| | <u>1,861,517</u> | <u>831,819</u> | <u>(739,331)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,954,005</u> |

19 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The company had no material contingent liabilities at the year end 31 December 2025.

20 Events after the reporting date

There were no significant events affecting the company since the year end 31 December 2025.

21 Status

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members or within one year thereafter for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves such amount as may be required, not exceeding €1.00

| 22 Cash generated from operations | 2025 | 2024 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Surplus for the year | 92,488 | 240,490 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Fair value gains and losses on investments | 13,099 | (6,036) |
| Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets | 30,792 | 3,067 |
| Movements in working capital: | | |
| Decrease in debtors | 46,659 | 93,214 |
| (Decrease)/increase in creditors | (268,675) | 247,676 |
| (Decrease) in deferred income | (33,297) | (20,255) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations | (118,934) | 558,156 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

23 Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on _____

THE IRISH COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

INCOME & EXPENDITURE DERIVED FROM COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| College Income | | |
| Members subscriptions | 70,095 | 72,300 |
| Ongoing Professional Education | 30,276 | 27,391 |
| Professional Competence Scheme | 29,150 | 23,750 |
| Annual Conference | 169,650 | 151,240 |
| Eyecare in Focus Team event | 24,110 | 31,930 |
| Bursary Grant | - | 20,000 |
| Educational Grant | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Fellowship International Programme | 26,667 | 40,000 |
| Specialist Training - HSE Income | 294,402 | 233,657 |
| Clinical Programme - HSE Income | 161,308 | 132,278 |
| Medical Council | 6,161 | 2,900 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| College Income | 831,819 | 755,446 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| College Expenditure | | |
| Staff Costs | 277,148 | 281,121 |
| Specialist Training | 135,827 | 146,538 |
| Accreditation Project | - | 67,414 |
| Clinical Programme | 127,587 | 105,387 |
| Bursary Grants paid out | - | 20,000 |
| Annual Conference costs | 90,325 | 73,697 |
| Eyecare in Focus costs | 12,721 | 12,891 |
| College admin expenses | 41,005 | 37,343 |
| Audit Fee | 5,654 | 5,227 |
| Legal & Professional | 2,856 | 2,733 |
| Bank charges | 2,317 | 3817 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| College Expenditure | 695,440 | 752,732 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| College income less expenses – surplus/(deficit) | 136,379 | 2,714 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

IRISH COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

About the ICO

Established in 1992, the Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO) is the recognised training and professional body for medical and surgical eye doctors in Ireland.

The ICO is a registered Irish charity. We are committed to the advancement and improvement of eye health and patient safety and work to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards in the delivery of eye care.

The delivery of healthcare requires a lifelong commitment to learning and the ICO's goal is to provide and support education and learning for ophthalmologists in training, in practice and those who work alongside them as they deliver care to patients.