



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



Eye Care in Focus

CONFERENCE 2026

*Clinical Education Conference for the
Extended Eye Care Team*

**Wednesday, October 7, 2026
The Ashling Hotel, Dublin**

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SPONSORS



PROGRAMME

10.00am Check In and Refreshments

10.30am Welcome address

Mr Gerry Fahy

President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Blackrock Health
Galway Clinic and Bon Secours, Galway

10.35am Multi-disciplinary Approach to Dry Eye

Ms Nikolina Budimlija

Consultant Ophthalmologist,
Institute of Eye Surgery, Kildare and Waterford

11.05am Developing the Integrated Eye Care Service in Mayo

Dr Fiona Harney

Consultant Ophthalmologist,
HSE West/North West

11.25am Retinopathy of Prematurity Screening in Ireland

Dr Bobby Tang

Consultant Ophthalmologist,
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

Linda Hamilton

Service Manager for Paediatric Medicine and
Unscheduled Care,
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

11.55am Medical Fitness to Drive - Vision Standards and Driving

Dr Mary Jo Ryan

Irish College of Ophthalmologists' Representative
for the Working Group on Traffic Medicine,
RSA National Office of Transport Medicine

12.15pm Update from Orbis

Ms Lisa McAnena

Consultant Ophthalmologist,
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Afternoon Session Introduction

Ms Aoife Doyle

HSE National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology;
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon,
Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and
St James's Hospital, Dublin

1.35pm Establishment of a New Integrated Ophthalmology Service at a Midlands Primary Care Centre

Sharon Kennelly

HSE Management Office,
Midlands Integrated Healthcare Area

1.55pm HSE Acute Quality and Patient Safety (QPS) Competency Navigator

Veronica Hanlon

Educationalist,
HSE Quality and Patient Safety

2.15pm The Evolving Role of Optometry

From Refraction to Integrated Eye Care

Michael Kehoe

Clinical Optometrist,
HSE Kilnamanagh Tymon Primary Care Centre,
Tallaght, Dublin

PROGRAMME

From Filing Cabinets to Digitisation: The Evolution of Client Records in Grangegorman PCC

Seán Longwill

Clinical Optometrist,
HSE Grangegorman Primary Care Centre, Dublin

Optometry and Glaucoma; A Continuum of Care

Mairéad King

Clinical Optometrist,
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin

3.05pm Orthoptic Led Vision Screening and Rehabilitation Services

Cheryl Deehan

Senior Orthoptist, HSE Castlebar Primary Care
Centre, Co Mayo

3.20pm Cataract eReferral Healthlink Form

Dr Geraldine Comer

Consultant Ophthalmologist,
HSE West/North West

3.30pm Meeting Close

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mr Gerry Fahy

Mr Gerry Fahy

*President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Blackrock Health Galway Clinic and
Bon Secours, Galway.*

Mr Gerry Fahy is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Blackrock Health Galway Clinic and Bon Secours, Galway with sub specialist interest in cataract surgery, corneal disease and oculoplastics. He previously worked as a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, UK from 1993-99 and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Galway University Hospital from 1999-2021.

He undertook an orbital oculoplastic fellowship in Vancouver 1992/3 with Prof Jack Rootman, Frank Buffam, Peter Dolman, and a fellowship in cornea/external eye disease Bristol Eye hospital with Prof David Easty. His senior registrar training was at Bristol Eye Hospital.

Mr Fahy is the current President of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists.



Ms Nikolina Budimlija

Ms Nikolina Budimlija

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Institute of Eye Surgery, Kildare and Waterford.

Ms Nikolina Budimlija is a Consultant Ophthalmologist and Ocular Surface Specialist at the Institute of Eye Surgery clinic in Waterford and Kildare.

Ms. Budimlija graduated from the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia in 2005 and later earned a master's in health management. She was a Fellow of the European Masters Program in Health Promotion. She trained in ophthalmic surgery at the Clinical Hospital Centre, Sestre Milosrdnice Zagreb, Croatia.

Ms. Budimlija's experience includes her role as an investigator at a screening database for diabetic retinopathy (DriDB) and as a medical associate at the Glaucoma Reference Center, Croatian Ministry of Health. She spent four years working as lead consultant at Health Centre in Zagreb until early 2018, when she relocated to Ireland and took up a position as a consultant in private practice in Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Ms Budimlija joined the Institute of Eye Surgery in 2019.

She is a member of the Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), European Society of Cornea & Ocular Surface Disease Specialists (EuCornea), Irish College of Ophthalmologists, Croatian Ophthalmological Society, and the European Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS). She has participated in numerous medical conferences worldwide.



Dr Fiona Harney

Dr Fiona Harney

Consultant Ophthalmologist, HSE West/NorthWest.

Dr Fiona Harney is a Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist at Castlebar Primary Care Centre and University Hospital Galway with a passion for providing exceptional patient care, ensuring patients receive comprehensive and tailored treatment plans. She is the Clinical Lecturer in Ophthalmology at the University of Galway.

Dr Harney opened her own private practice in 2002 in Salthill, Galway where she developed a special interest in treating patients with glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy. She recently published a paper on the use of AI in the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy.

Over the last eighteen months, Dr Harney has played a significant role in expanding community ophthalmic care in the west of Ireland by developing the integrated eye care services in the Primary Care Centre, Castlebar.



Dr Bobby Tang

Dr Bobby Tang

Consultant Ophthalmologist, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.

Dr Bobby Tang is a Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist working in Temple Street Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda.

After completing ophthalmology training in Ireland he undertook a Paediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

His specialist interests are in Paediatric Ophthalmology and Retinopathy of Prematurity.



Linda Hamilton

Linda Hamilton

Service Manager for Paediatric Medicine and Unscheduled Care, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Linda Hamilton is Service Manager for Paediatric Medicine and Unscheduled Care at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. A nurse by background, she has more than 20 years experience leading healthcare teams across Northern Ireland, with a career spanning general medicine, cardiology and ophthalmology.

Following senior clinical leadership roles across cardiology, theatres and recovery services, Linda progressed into senior management as Lead Nurse for Surgery

before taking on a regional leadership role as Paediatric Ophthalmology Manager and Clinical Co-ordinator for Retinoblastoma and Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) services across Northern Ireland.

As Regional ROP Clinical Co-ordinator, Linda led the transformation of the Northern Ireland Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) service through strong leadership, multidisciplinary collaboration, workforce development and digital innovation. She led improvements that increased on-time screening rates for at-risk infants from 72.5% to 100% within three months, a standard that has been sustained for seven years.

She introduced a zero-fail tracking system, implemented wide-field retinal imaging, developed a multidisciplinary screening workforce and helped design a bespoke digital ROP pathway within Encompass, improving patient safety, service resilience and family engagement. These innovations have helped ensure vulnerable infants across Northern Ireland receive timely access to sight-saving care while creating a more sustainable and efficient service for the future.

In recognition of her leadership and contribution to neonatal eye care, Linda was awarded the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Award 2026, one of the professions highest honours, recognising outstanding leadership, innovation and measurable impact on patient care.



Dr Mary Jo Ryan

Ophthalmologist, Ryan's Medical Centre, Wexford.

Irish College of Ophthalmologist's Representative for the Working Group on Traffic Medicine, RSA National Office of Transport Medicine.

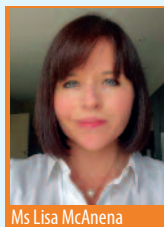
Dr Mary Jo Ryan has worked as a medical ophthalmologist in Wexford town since completing her training in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in 1997.

She joined her family practice which was established in 1953 and now works alongside two opticians.

Dr Ryan does sessional work for the HSE in paediatric ophthalmology and for the HSE diabetic retinal screening programme.

Dr Ryan is the current ICO representative for the Working Group on Traffic Medicine, RSA National Office of Transport Medicine, which is the focus of her presentation at the Eye Care in Focus Conference.

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Ms Lisa McAnena

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Dublin.

Ms Lisa McAnena is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Mater Private and Beaumont Hospital. She completed subspecialty fellowship training in paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Royal Eye Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospitals in 2018/19, London and in neuro-ophthalmology at Moorfields Eye Hospital London in 2020/21.

Ms McAnena delivers medical and surgical ophthalmology services in her clinical practice, including cataract surgery and sub specialises in neuro-ophthalmology and strabismus.



Ms Aoife Doyle

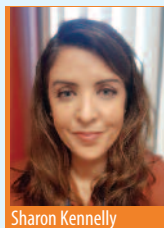
HSE National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin.

Ms Aoife Doyle graduated from UCD in 1994 and obtained her Masters of Medical Science (Physiology) in 1996. She underwent Fellowship training at The Glaucoma Institute, Foundation Hospital St Joseph, Paris between 2004 and 2005. She has held the position of Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St. James's Hospital since 2005. She is a Glaucoma Specialist at RVEEH specialising in all forms of glaucoma laser and surgery.

She has developed the glaucoma service at RVEEH to include involvement of nursing and other health care professionals in conjunction with the medical and surgical teams at RVEEH and with the consultant ophthalmologists in the integrated eye care teams, to deliver a comprehensive and accessible glaucoma service for the Dublin South East and Midland regions.

She was Medical Director at RVEEH from 2011-2014 and is currently the National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology.



Sharon Kennelly

Programme Management Office Lead, HSE Dublin and Midlands Integrated Healthcare Area.

Dr Sharon Kennelly BSc PhD is a General Manager of Change and Innovation and Programme Management Office (PMO) Lead within the HSE Dublin and Midlands (DML) health region.

Dr Kennelly began her career in clinical nutrition, earning a BSc in Human Nutrition & Dietetics from the Dublin Institute of Technology and Trinity College

Dublin. Deeply interested in evidence-based healthcare delivery, she pursued a part-time PhD at the Dublin Institute of Technology (completed in 2011), while working as a dietitian focusing on the strategic management of malnutrition and modifying prescribing behaviour.

Her published research in allied health sciences highlights her early commitment to operational improvement and patient-facing healthcare efficiency. In her current role she specialises in healthcare transformation, project portfolio governance, and supporting service redesign in the new health region model.

Dr Kennelly plays a key supporting role to the IHA managers in the DML region in implementing modern, integrated care pathways that bridge community and hospital environments, including key eye care transformation projects including the Integrated Ophthalmology Service in Primary Care in Portlaoise. Committed to embedding frontline innovation, she works closely with the Regional Leadership team and front-line clinical teams.



Veronica Hanlon

Veronica Hanlon

Educationalist, HSE Quality and Patient Safety.

Veronica Hanlon works as an Educationalist with HSE National Quality and Patient Safety. Her primary focus is education and training. She holds a Master's Degree in Education and BA in Human Resource Management as well as a Post Graduate Certificate in Quality Improvement Leadership in Healthcare. Veronica has been working in the area of education and training for many years in both the private and public sector and as a keen interest in supporting multi- disciplinary teams to implement improvement through education, training and coaching.

Veronica is also an accredited coach with the International Coaching Federation.



Micheal Kehoe

Micheal Kehoe

Clinical Optometrist, HSE Kilnamanagh Tymon Primary Care Centre, Tallaght, Dublin.

Michael Kehoe is an optometrist with over 20 years' clinical experience across both private practice and public healthcare. He initially graduated with an honours degree in Biology and Mathematics from NUI Maynooth before going on to study Optometry at Cardiff University, qualifying in 2003.

Following qualification, Michael spent a year working in a large multiple optometry practice before returning to his home town of Naas, where he worked for almost 16 years in private practice.

In November 2020, Michael joined the HSE, working as part of a multidisciplinary ophthalmology team at Kilnamanagh Tymon Primary Care Centre. The service was established as part of a Sláintecare initiative to provide ophthalmic care in

the community and reduce reliance on hospital-based services at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

His current clinical work is primarily focused on cataract and glaucoma care. This includes assessment of patients referred for possible cataract surgery, post-operative cataract reviews, and the assessment and ongoing monitoring of patients with glaucoma or suspected glaucoma.



Seán Longwill

Seán Longwill

Clinical Optometrist, HSE Grangegorman Primary Care Centre, Dublin.

Seán is a clinical optometrist for the HSE and an assistant clinical lecturer in contact lens practice at TU Dublin. He is a MPhil graduate whose research examined Irish refractive error data. Working at the Grangegorman Primary Care Centre, Seán is a passionate advocate for modernising patient care through digital health records.



Mairéad King

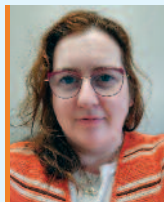
Mairéad King

Clinical Optometrist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin.

Mairéad is currently working as a Clinical Optometrist in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin. Here she is involved in areas of Glaucoma, Diabetes, the Eye Emergency Department and Post-op Cataract Clinics.

She has completed a Professional Cert in Glaucoma and also holds a HDIP in Arts-Primary Education.

Having qualified as an optometrist in 2002, her career included many years as a high street-based optometrist and optometry clinical supervisor in TUDublin. She then moved on to work with the paediatric and adult ophthalmology service in the HSE Primary Care, Kilnamanagh and is now based at the Mater Hospital.



Cheryl Deehan

Cheryl Deehan

Senior Orthoptist, HSE Castlebar Primary Care Centre, Co. Mayo.

Cheryl Deehan qualified from the University of Liverpool with a BSc (Hons) Orthoptics. Her career started in the UK where she worked in Salisbury district hospital. She relocated to Ireland in 2022. She currently works in Community Ophthalmology in County Mayo.

Cheryl Deehan is a Senior Orthoptist in Community Ophthalmology in Mayo, and the current Chair of the Irish Association of Orthoptists and Secretary for the HSCP Alliance.

After graduating from the University of Liverpool in 2017, she started her career in the UK working at Salisbury Foundation trust. Cheryl continued to advance her clinical expertise and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Vision and Strabismus at the University of Sheffield.

With a strong background in service development, Cheryl previously designed and established low vision services during her post in the UK. She brings this passion for patient-centred innovation to her current role, holding a keen professional interest in the advancement and integration of stroke services within orthoptic care.



Dr Geraldine Comer

Dr Geraldine Comer

Consultant Ophthalmologist, HSE West/NorthWest.

Dr Geraldine Comer graduated from University College Galway and completed her Ophthalmic training in Waterford and Limerick, before commencing as Clinical tutor in Ophthalmology at UCG, alongside sessional work as an Ophthalmic Physician for Mayo PCCC.

She subsequently worked extensively in a busy private practice at the Galway Clinic along with hospital based medical ophthalmology at Galway University Hospital (GUH). Dr Comer has supported the Community service and as covid hit, pivoted full time to Public Ophthalmology at GUH, being involved in all aspects of medical ophthalmology.

Her particular interests are Community Paediatric Ophthalmology with a keen focus on children with additional needs. Dr. Comer is a Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist for the HSE West and North-West health region.

About the Irish College of Ophthalmologists

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 provides the governance, structure and standards for postgraduate education, training and assessment.

The ICO is committed to the ongoing development and evolution of the training pathways to ensure we are producing specialists who can meet the current and future eye care needs in our population.

The delivery of healthcare requires a lifelong commitment to learning with ongoing medical education and continuing professional development as essential aspects of professional practice. The ICO's goal is to provide and support education and learning for ophthalmologists in training, in practice and those who work alongside them in the extended allied health professional team as they deliver care to patients.

The ICO continues to develop an extensive programme of professional development courses, educational meetings, workshops and conferences covering a wide range of clinical and nonclinical topics through the designated ICO Professional Competence Scheme.

The ICO is a registered Irish charity. Our focus is on the advancement and improvement of eye health and patient safety and to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards in the delivery of eye care.



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