



## Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this edition of the College newsletter. College life has been very busy these past few months and will continue at a quick pace between now and the close of my term as President in May. The EGM held on February 1st gave us all a good opportunity to discuss the issues of greatest concern to the specialty. A summary of the decisions reached is included here and an update of progress will be given at the AGM on Thursday May 30th and I am looking forward to continuing discussions in Killarney.

The diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment programme is being defined for the first time on a national basis which I think will be of great benefit to patients. I would encourage you all to participate in whatever way you can to encompass this in your practice. The draft plans under the clinical programme, an outline of which you received prior to the EGM, continue to be refined and it is expected that the programme will be finalised and published over the summer. Appropriate submissions will then be made to the HSE estimates and Service Plan for 2014. No doubt the Annual Conference will give us another opportunity for discussion on this issue.

The new development of a Department of Traffic Medicine led by Prof Desmond O'Neill in the RCPI, has been very helpful to us clinicians on the ground. I hope you have all received their document *Slaint agus Tiomant*. We now have clarity about vision requirements for driving and will be backed up by the dept of traffic medicine and the RSA. I hope you will all find this helpful in your daily practice, further details are in this newsletter.

With Best Wishes

PATRICIA LOGAN,  
*President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists*

## ICO/Novartis Research Award 2013



*ICO Novartis Research Award - L-R Greg Hays, Medical Director Novartis, Clodagh Brennock, Medical Liaison Officer Novartis, Patricia Logan, President, ICO and Paul O'Brien, Chair of the Scientific Committee.*

The College's Annual Eye Research Award for 2013 is to be sponsored by Novartis. The award has been instrumental in facilitating eye doctors to undertake a period of research or specific training in an eye care centre of excellence and is given as an unrestricted educational grant.

The sponsorship was announced at the Montgomery Lecture where College President Patricia Logan said; "We are delighted with this financial support from Novartis in 2013 allowing for the continuation of our bursary award and know the standard of applications for this year will be as exceptional as ever.

Gilles Ducorroy, Head of Marketing for Novartis said partnering with the ICO to support the Bursary is part of their on-going commitment to research in Ophthalmology in Ireland.

Applicants are invited to submit their entries no later than Friday 19th April. The prize is not restricted to eye doctors in training and those in practice are encouraged to consider making a suitable application.

The application should be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae and a detailed plan of the research which you intend to carry out. Applicants must hold a medical degree. The applications received will be shortlisted and a panel of experts, to include an extern, will interview those shortlisted to determine the winner. Application forms are available to download on the College's website [www.eyedoctors.ie](http://www.eyedoctors.ie) or from the College office.

The winner will be announced at the College's Annual Conference in Killarney May 29-31st.



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If you would like to make any suggestions for future issues of the College Newsletter please contact  
**Siobhan on 01 402 2777 or**  
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# EGM report

**To facilitate an in depth discussion of some of the issues arising out of the Innovations in Eye Care Conference held last December, a College Extraordinary General Meeting was held in the RCSI on February 1st.**

The meeting agenda discussed the moves to address the perception that what eye doctors do is straightforward. The College must work towards ensuring the highest standards of patient protection and must be at the forefront of setting and upholding standards and developing the profession to deliver the medical care required in a changing environment.

Several motions were laid down to prompt discussion. Presentations by College members of each of the motions facilitated the discussions.

1. *It was agreed that an Ethics Committee, reporting to Council, should be formed and that the precise format of the committee will be agreed at Council.*

Paddy Condon outlined his vision for an ethics committee, reporting to Council, which would advise on issues related to medical practice.

2. *It was agreed that the nationally funded Diabetic Retinopathy Programme will benefit patients and that it should be supported but that another College meeting may be necessary to discuss the issue in more detail.*

The members discussed the roll out of the national DR screening programme and its impact on existing practice and patient care. David Keegan, as the ICO representative on the screening standards committee, outlined the plans for the roll out and the provision of secondary treatment for those requiring it.

Diabetic patients will be invited to attend a screening, which will involve the taking of a digital photograph. These images will be graded centrally. Of the 145,000 approx Diabetics it is envisaged that 30% will be invited for screening in 2013 with a further 70% invited for screening in 2014. Two consortiums have one the tender to provide the screening and grading. The split between the 2 consortiums, who will carry out the screening is geographical. One group is using Specsavers to take the pictures and the second is using technicians located in primary care centers. The HSE RDOs have agreed that the currently running local screening programmes will

continue to be funded until the end of 2013 but are likely to have their funding cut in the new year. However members present informed that funding for local screening programmes has already been cut.

It was agreed that the ICO must be part of the process to advocate on what's best for the patient. Patients identified in the screening should have the option of going back to their own doctor for treatment.

The ICO is assisting the NCSS in performing the national GAP analysis to assess the existing capacity and outstanding resource deficit nationally to provide the treatment arm of the diabetic retinopathy programme. 7 HSE units, have been identified as the treatment centers for the first cohort of patients to be screened in 2013. When fully operational it is expected that 15 HSE centers will provide this cover. A fund of €1.8m has been allocated to provide the treatment and this will be an opportunity to appoint more eye doctors. The NCSS are assuming that a certain percentage of those identified as requiring treatment will fall off to the private sector. A fee of €166 per patient referred will be paid to the unit. This is considered a capture fee for secondary assessment and there will be no further fee for additional treatment if required.

3. *It was agreed that appropriately trained allied health professionals should be incorporated into the community ophthalmic service under the supervision of the eye doctor to improve access for patients, particularly with respect to the children's screening service.*

Paul Moriarty said that support from Allied Health Professionals and the introduction and expansion of the technician grade should be progressed to increase the efficiency of the service delivered by eye doctors.

It was agreed that optometrists and other appropriately trained AHPs, including technicians, should be included in the HSE managed service in the community as well as the hospitals, under the supervision of the eye doctors and employed at a sessional rate not fee per item.

4. *It was agreed that the national roll out of the Community Ophthalmic Medical Treatment Scheme (COSMETS) should be supported as a positive step towards improved patient access.*

Margaret Pierse advised that the fee currently paid to eye doctors under the Community Ophthalmic Services Scheme is likely to be reduced in July, under the Financial Emergency Measures legislation. This will have a detrimental effect on the ability of independently practicing eye doctors in the community to continue to provide the service to medical card patients.

It was agreed that the College must advocate for the role-out of the Community Ophthalmic Services Medical Treatment Scheme to all eligible eye doctors

5. *It was agreed that the ICO will continue to promote the central role of the eye doctor within the community and will continue to advocate on behalf of patients to make certain that the highest standards of care are maintained by ensuring that medical treatment is not provided by unsupervised non-medical eye care practitioners*

Garry Treacy outlined the key role played by eye doctors in the community in the provision of medical care. The College must support both COPs and COSS practices and persuade the DOH and HSE that they are getting good value for money and that both these networks need to be expanded and upgraded for the benefit of medical card patients and to relieve hospital eye clinics.

Members agreed that the College must continue to advocate on the central role of eye doctors in the community.

6. *It was agreed that the provision of medical eye care treatment and eye care must be focused on best likely patient outcome and not determined solely by commercial considerations.*

The College is concerned that the increasing drive towards the provision of medical care by commercial entities will result in decisions to treat being based on financial considerations not best likely outcome for patients.

It was agreed that the College must continue to articulate concerns about the marketing and advertising of medical treatments and ensure that decisions on care are made based on best likely outcome.

# Mater Team wins Inaugural Overall Astelles Changing Tomorrow Award

The Ophthalmology Department of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, led by Surgeon Paul Connell is the inaugural Overall Astelles Changing Tomorrow Award 2013 recipients for their project entitled 'Transitioning an intravitreal injection service for Age-Related Macular Degeneration'.

The Mater team, which implemented a team-based intravitreal ward-based injection service for neovascular ARMD to administer therapy in a timely fashion, increase patient satisfaction and up-skill staff via education and training also won the category 'Changing Tomorrow through Innovation'.

Explaining the project Paul said, "Age-related macular degeneration is the leading cause of visual loss

internationally. Therapies have emerged which have substantially impacted on our ability to treat, but have led to considerable service delivery issues. The increase in service provision for AMD, the subject of this submission, has resulted in an unprecedented demand on our ophthalmic retinal service.

"The submission outlines the background, initiation and completion of a self-funding transitioned treatment service, achieving a 300% increase in treatments, a 400% increase in ophthalmic photographic service, coupled with increased educational attainment and achieved with cost neutral on personnel."

Looking into the future, the aim is to continue to expand this service which has led to increased cohesive-

ness, camaraderie and ultimately and most importantly improved patient outcome in terms of sight saving.

"The ability to work together in severe economic times demonstrates that improvements can be made, with accurate planning, implementation and with marked benefit. Furthermore, the often difficult relationship that exists between clinical care-givers and non-clinical administrators has been enhanced with a mutual respect of each other's roles in these difficult times which no doubt will enhance future productivity in the unit."

Some 16 diverse and innovative healthcare initiatives were celebrated and rewarded for their efforts to improve the future of patients in Ireland at the Astelles Changing Tomorrow Awards 2012 ceremony in Dublin in February.

The team received a specially commissioned trophy to signify their achievement, plus a €1000 educational/research grant.

## Annual Conference 2013 SPECIAL EVENT

Wednesday 29th May @ 8pm

*Fishamble: The New Play Company presents*

### THE WHEELCHAIR ON MY FACE

**a look back at a myopic childhood**

by Sonya Kelly, directed by Gina Moxley

*Winner of Fringe First Award at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2012*



'I got my first pair of glasses when I was seven. A nurse came to the school and tested everyone's eyes. And so it was discovered why I'd thrown bread to the floating crisp packets in our local pond and walked into lamp posts and said, 'excuse me'. Until that day the world was a swirl of moving coloured blobs. I thought it was the same for everyone. How wrong I was.'

## GP Information Evening

Tuesday 28th May

A special event for colleagues in General Practice will be held in Killarney to coincide with the Annual Conference.

The talks will focus on the most common eye conditions GPs come across and advice for them on what needs to be treated or managed directly or what needs to be referred on to an eye doctor for specialist care.

The evening will also aim to foster a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of community and hospital based eye doctors and referral pathways.

The session will be held ahead of the conference start date, on the evening of Tuesday, 28th May at 7pm. If you would like to participate as one of the speakers or would like to suggest GPs who would be interested in attending please contact Siobhan.

# New report calls for improved strategy to prevent sight loss in Ireland

The National Coalition for Vision Health in Ireland – an expert group convened by the NCBI, Fighting Blindness and people working in vision-related advocacy and healthcare – launched the **Framework to Adopt a Strategic Approach for Vision Health in Ireland** in the RHA Gallery, Dublin.

The expert group included a number of ICO representatives David Keegan, Mark Cahill, Maureen Hillary, Pat Logan and Siobhan Kelly. Looking at the future of eye health in Ireland the group is calling on the Government to implement a number of specific recommendations focused on eliminating avoidable sight loss.

A series of workshops were held in late 2012 to develop the document which is recommending eight principles to direct any future development of vision health support and services.

The vision strategy framework report highlights the importance of a considered approach to eye healthcare services, particularly in light of our ageing population. Action is needed to drive awareness among the public and healthcare policy makers of solutions for preventable vision loss which will ultimately serve to have positive social and economic consequences.

It is a growing trend that people in Ireland and across the world are living longer, healthier lives and we have a responsibility to provide patients with the best possible health services based on the latest medical advancements and care. It makes absolute long-term economic and social wellbeing sense to put resources and investment in place to ensure we don't reach epidemic eye health problems in the future that could have been avoided."

The principle of access, quality and patient safety is one that is also critical to the success of any future vision strategy:

The implementation of a clear vision strategy is urgently required



L-R Avril Daly, Fighting Blindness, Des Kenny, NCBI, Loretta O'Callaghan, Novartis, David Keegan, Siobhan Kelly

considering the public healthcare system is insufficiently resourced to treat the existing patient demand. Given that the financial situation that we currently face is likely to continue it is imperative that all services and supports offered are provided with equity of access, patient safety and quality of care at the centre of all decisions.

According to the Framework report, the Government has just seven years to eliminate avoidable blindness wherever possible, since it is committed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) objectives of Vision 2020.

While the expert group acknowledge that attempts are being made to improve eye health services, such as the upcoming roll-out of the HSE's diabetic retinopathy screening programme, these developments are long overdue.

Other countries have demonstrated the benefits of implementing such strategies. A recent Danish study found that the incidence of legal blindness attributed to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) decreased by approximately 50% over a ten-year period when a more structured approach to vision health was adopted.

The Coalition believes that the HSE's new National Programme for Eye Care is a good opportunity to improve services. The newly launched Strategic Framework document will complement the HSE's National Programme for Eye Care and outlines a set of eight principles which can be summarised as follows (the full report is available to view on our website [www.eyedoctors.ie](http://www.eyedoctors.ie))

- **Any future strategy should be all-encompassing and include each and all eye health problems/ diseases for both children and adults**
- **Quality and safety need to be maximised for anyone accessing services**
- **Services should be person-centred**
- **Patients should have choice and control and the ability to live fulfilled lives**
- **Seamless service pathways should be put in place**
- **Evidence-based approaches and equality of access should be prioritised**
- **Research should also be prioritised**
- **The strategic development of eye health should be aligned with the wider public health policy framework.**

# Eye doctors welcome introduction of new visual standards for driving

The ICO has welcomed the introduction of new visual standards for driving as part of the 'Medical Fitness to Drive' Guidelines which came into effect on 19 January 2013. The guidelines were formally launched at a meeting in Dublin on Friday 22nd, February.



The new guidelines, relating to car and motorcycle drivers (known as Group 1 licence holders) provide a national framework on standards in traffic medicine in Ireland and reflect recent developments in medicines, such as improvements in diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions.

College President Pat Logan and Garry Treacy are members of the Group which developed the guidelines. Vision is the most important source of information when driving, so visual assessment for driving is a major public health issue. The measurement of visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, fields of view, twilight vision and vision under glare conditions are of the upmost importance.

Understanding the impact of a sight condition or the way certain medicines might affect driving is a vital aspect of road safety. These guidelines are there to protect the public and support medical practitioners in making decisions about an individual's 'fitness to drive' ability.

On behalf of the College Pat welcomed the proposal for an on-road assessment for patients who do not strictly fulfil the criteria but who the treating consultant believes is competent to drive and also endorsed the proposal to restrict some drivers to daylight only driving.

The guidelines have been distributed to all General Practitioners and are available for members of the public to download from the RSA website. The eye doctors of Ireland welcome and fully support this collaboration between the RSA and the Department of Traffic Medicine in the RCPI in providing clear guidelines on the visual criteria for driving.

## Public Information Eye Health Seminar Thursday 30th May

As part of our annual meeting for 2013, the ICO will host a community information event on Eye Health at The Malton Hotel, Killarney, commencing at 4pm on Thursday, 30th May.

Eye doctors and patient group representatives will present the latest information on a variety of health topics, looking at the most common causes of avoidable blindness in the western world and answering questions from the audience.

The session will be free and open to patients, family members or anyone interested in learning more the importance of eye health and how best to prevent sight loss.

Representatives from patient organisations including Fighting Blindness, NCBI and ChildVision will speak about patient related issues and provide information on the available support systems in place for individuals affected by sight loss and their families.

## Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Doctor award for Ian Dooley

Congratulations to Ian Dooley, SpR who won the RAMI Doctor Award for his paper "Comparison of dry-eye disease severity after laser in situ keratomileusis"

The award was for a study published in 2012, in the Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, which examined the effects of refractive surgery on dry eye markers, specifically tear osmolarity.

The work suggests that the effects lasts for 6 months and are more marked in LASIK than surface laser. The work was carried out in the Mater Private Hospital with Professor O'Keefe and Dr Fiona D'Arcy.



Pictured at the presentation of the RAMI Doctor Awards are Professor Tom Walsh, Ian Dooley and Hakan Granlund, from Pfizer

# Innovations in Eye Care Delive

*Pictured at the “Innovations in Eye Care Delivery – Embracing New Challenges” conference organised by the Irish College of Ophthalmologists in Dublin (Thursday 6th December). Over 100 delegates from the Irish and International eye healthcare community, including eye doctors, health service executive officials, patient advocacy groups and allied health professionals, came together to discuss recommendations on how the delivery of eye care in Ireland should look in the future.*



*Delegates at the conference*



*Rob Acheson, Gillian O'Mullane*



*Michael Brennan, Mark Cahill*



*Aivil Daly, Gillian O'Mullane*



*Patricia Logan, Minister James Reilly, Paul Moriarty, Philip Crowley*



*Gillian O'Mullane, Catherine McCrann and Fiona Kavanagh*

# ry Conference December 2012



*Patricia Logan, Minister James Reilly, Fatima Hamroush*



*Arthur Cummings, Mark Cahill and Sheraz Deya*



*Pat Cafferty, James Morgan and John Smith*



*Charles Zacks, Paul Moriarty, William Astle and Richard Smith*



*Michel Matter, President of the Association of Ophthalmologists, Geneva, Margaret O'Donnell, Consultant in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*



*Michel Matter, President of the Association of Ophthalmologists, Geneva, Margaret O'Donnell, Consultant in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Garry Treacy, Siobhan Kelly.*

# Montgomery Lecture 2013

*Special Guest Speaker: Gerrit Melles, M.D. Ph.D.;*  
*Director Netherlands Institute for Innovative Ocular Surgery.*

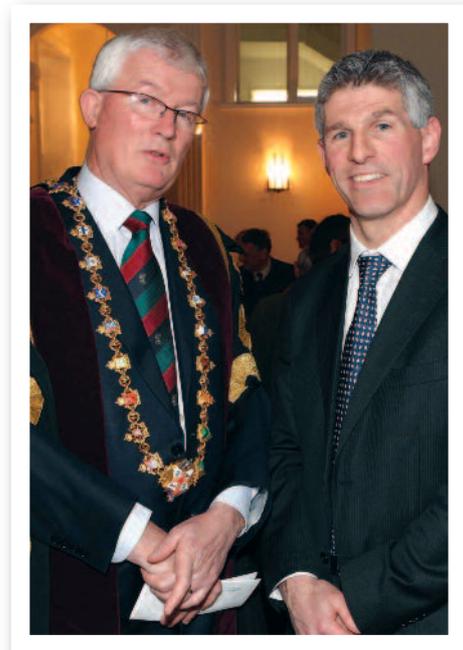
Dr. Melles was our distinguished guest speaker at the Annual Montgomery Lecture 2013 with his lecture entitled 'Endothelial Keratoplasty: DMEK or DMEK – what if Fuchs endothelial dystrophy does not exist?'

Dr. Melles is a cornea specialist and founder of the Netherlands Institute for Innovative Ocular Surgery (NIIOS) and the Melles Cornea Clinic Rotterdam. His clinical work focuses on the management of corneal disorders and he is actively involved



*Gerrit Melles*

in research and development of ophthalmic surgical techniques and has invented several advanced lamellar keratoplasty techniques among others Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK). Furthermore, he has developed instruments and medical devices required for the invented techniques, as well as the Surgicube®. Dr. Melles has received several awards including the Barraquer Award in recognition of his contribution to ophthalmology.



*Patrick Broe, Paul O'Brien*



*Gerrit Melles, Director of the Netherlands Institute for Innovative Ocular Surgery, Patricia Logan, President of the ICO and Patrick Broe, President of the RCSI*



*Catherine McCrann, Loretta Nolan*



*Mary Jo Eustace Ryan, Margaret Pierce and Katherina Tobin*



*Siobhan Kelly, Mark Cahill and Patricia Quinlan*

# Pictured at the ICO EGM and Montgomery Lecture in the RCSI on Friday February 1st, 2013



*Attendees at Dr Gerrit Melles presentation at the Annual Montgomery Lecture*



*Yvonne Delaney, Darragh O'Doherty*



*Emma Duignan, Denise Curtin and Lisa McAnena*



*Fiona Kearns and Paddy Condon*



*Gerrit Melles and Paul O'Brien*



*Dharm Nath Pandeya, Maureen Hillary, Fiona Scanlon-Moriarty*

# RAMI Spring Meeting in conjunction with Aut Even Eye Conference

The Spring meeting of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Ophthalmic Section was held in conjunction with the 1st Aut Even Eye Conference in the Lyrath Estate Hotel on Friday February 22nd 2013.

Patrick Condon chaired the meeting which was organised by the RAMI secretary Catherine Cleary. There were presentations from David Kent, Tom Stumpf, Micheal Gallagher and James O'Reilly. 12 NCHD papers were also presented.

The highlight of the Meeting was the Eustace Lecture which was chaired by the RAMI ophthalmic section President Marie Hickey Dwyer and presented by Professor Louis Collum on *The Ocular Surface in Health and Disease*.



Patrick Condon



Tom Stumpf



Kathriona Garry, Annette Jolly, Patrick Condon, Marie Hickey Dwyer, Louis Collum & David Kent



David Kent



Philip O'Reilly & Sylvia Jungkim



Peter Tormey, Marie Hickey Dwyer & Louis Collum



George Vartsakis and Najiha Rahman

# New campaign promotes eye health among women

New figures recently published Fighting Blindness reveal that one in four of families in Ireland are affected by sight loss – and that among these families, mothers are almost twice as likely to be affected by sight loss as fathers. The nationally representative market research of more than 1,000 people in Ireland was undertaken by Behaviour & Attitudes on behalf of Bayer and Fighting Blindness in mid-December 2012.

The figures supported the launch of a new campaign to promote eye health among women over forty. The centerpiece of the campaign is a new free lifestyle magazine, 'VISION', which focuses on every aspect of eye health.

The new data reveals that the majority of sight loss in Ireland is based on hereditary factors (31%). The other main cause of sight loss in Ireland is related to age (14%): One in eight respondents (12%) said old age was behind their sight loss, and 2% attributed their loss to AMD – age-related macular degeneration. Other causes of sight loss include glaucoma (4%); cataracts, and accidents (all 3%); and diabetes (2%).

College Honorary Secretary Patricia Quinlan is the expert spokesperson for the campaign and urged people to be aware how much lifestyle is a factor for eye health. The message we want to get across is that over half of the causes of sight loss are preventable with early diagnosis and treatment.

Patricia encouraged members of the public to realise the importance of their own role in preserving the integrity of their sight through simple life style changes such as having regular eye examinations, stopping smoking and maintaining a healthy diet.

The ICO is very pleased to support Fighting Blindness and the VISION campaign to help improve eye health awareness in Ireland.

The survey also revealed poor awareness of eye health among the representative group. When asked, one third said they don't think sight loss is preventable. There is also a

poor understanding of what factors affect eye health. Asked to rank factors affecting eye health, three in five people ranked reading in a low light, and using flat screen technology – TV, computers, tablets – as the two most important risks, yet neither of these activities damage your eyes.

Smoking ranked third in a list of five factors potentially affecting eye health, diet fourth, and alcohol fifth. Just 19% thought smoking was the most important of the five factors affecting eye health, while 10% ranked diet first.

One in five people (19%) say they have not had an eye check for three or more years, while (4%) have never had one. One in four people (24%) say they had their eyes checked in the last three years.

Avril Daily, CEO for Fighting Blindness, said "People should get their eyes checked every two years, especially women over forty. This is a key age where sight loss can begin to deteriorate, so if people get checked they will learn why their eyesight might be suffering – and crucially, what they can do about it. Nearly half the people surveyed (48%) think things like reading become more difficult in your 50s, but the reality is this happens in your forties, and only a quarter of respondents (25%) knew this."

VISION magazine is available to download at [www.fightingblindness.ie](http://www.fightingblindness.ie) or if you would like one in hard copy, send an email with your name and address to [info@fightingblindness.ie](mailto:info@fightingblindness.ie), or you can call the office on 01 709 3050.

## Fighting Blindness Appoints David Keegan to Board

David Keegan has joined the Board of Fighting Blindness.



David has been involved with

Fighting Blindness since 2008 as part of the organising committee for its annual International Retina meeting. He will work with the board in driving the charity's vision to cure blindness, to support those experiencing sight loss and to empower patients.

Avril Daly, CEO of Fighting Blindness, said "With his vast experience in retinal transplantation and disease, David is a fantastic asset to our board. He joins at a pivotal time in the charity's development as we reach our 30th anniversary and at an exciting time for eye research as we move ever closer to treatments and cures for vision loss."

Fighting Blindness funds world-leading research into treatments and cures for blindness and is working to find cures and treatments for rare, genetic, age-related and degenerative conditions that affect an estimated 224,000 adults and children in Ireland. It has invested more than €10m in over 40 research projects in Irish and international institution. It also provides a unique professional counselling service for people and families affected by sight loss.

# 13th International AMD and Retina Conference comes to Dublin

ESASO, the European School for Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology, will hold the 13th International AMD and Retina Conference in Dublin's Convention Centre on the 25th and 26th October. Incoming College President Marie Hickey Dwyer is Co-Chair of the meeting's Scientific Committee.

This key scientific gathering examines research, prevention and therapy of retinal diseases, with a particular emphasis on age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Disorders of the macula in the retina are an issue of pressing importance; 25 to 30 million people worldwide suffer from this affliction, and every year half a million new cases are diagnosed.

The annual conference has demonstrated how international collaboration and exchange among ophthalmologists can facilitate

therapeutic advancements. More than 1000 delegates from all over the world are expected to attend the 2013 meeting which feature plenary presentations, case studies and meet-the-experts sessions. Panel discussions and a poster exhibition are also included in the programme.

Based in Lugano, Switzerland, the ESASO Foundation was founded in 2008 and is the European centre of competence for postgraduate studies in ophthalmology. Its congress is a forum for comprehensive know-how transfer and disseminating the latest findings from the International Fellowship to the specialist community.

The School's activities cover all subspecialties such as medical and surgical retina, cornea and refractive, cataract, glaucoma, uveitis, oculoplasty, peditary and strabismus.

## Growing the Eye Doc Family!

We have welcomed lots of new arrivals in the ophthalmology family over the past few months and to make it that bit easier for those of you with small children to attend the annual meeting we are organising child minding & crèche facilities at the conference. Let Siobhan in the office know if you would like to attend and plan to bring the family!

## REMINDER – PCS Re-Enrollment

The second year of mandatory participation in a professional competence scheme will draw to a close on April 30th. It is necessary to re-enrol online for each year which runs from May 1st to April 30th. The fee for re-enrollment for the current year has been reduced to €100 and for those members who renewed their PCS before the 2013 membership subscription fell due, a €50 reduction in the annual sub was applied. If you require any help with re-enrollment please contact the College office in advance of the April 30th deadline.

In keeping with Medical Council requirements 5% of those registered have been selected for a verification audit, which the College is currently in the process of carrying out. The individuals randomly selected for audit are being contacted and asked to provide documentary evidence, where appropriate, of the CME activity which has been logged online. This process must be completed for reporting to the Medical Council by May 30th.

## Baby Boom!

A big welcome to all of the new arrivals that have joined the eye doc family recently and of course congratulations to all of the mums & dads. Who will grow up to become doctors ... and how will the specialty have changed by the time these little ones come of age?

### Welcome to

- Ruairi Buckley born 25th February to Fiona D'Arcy and Muiris Buckley
- Sam McKeogh, born on 14th March to Caroline Baily and Shane McKeogh
- Harry Dooley born on 19th March to Marianna & Ian Dooley
- John Faul Jnr born on 20th March to Catherine Cleary and John Faul
- Isabella Doris born to Janice Brady and John Doris



Ruairi Buckley



Sam McKeogh



Harry Dooley