



Irish College of
Ophthalmologists
Eye Doctors of Ireland
Protecting your Vision

ICO NEWS

ISSUE 31

SUMMER 2022

President's Message

I was delighted to see so many of our members and trainees at the ICO Annual Conference in Killkenny last month!



It was a fantastic turnout with over 200 clinicians in attendance and I hope everyone enjoyed re connecting with colleagues and the intensive three day educational programme.

Our Annual Conference has always been an extremely valuable educational meeting for the specialty and an important collegiate occasion for our members. It is crucial to return to in-person fora to discuss in great depth the latest developments and learnings amongst colleagues, difficult and unusual cases and of course all we have learnt about our specialty and service delivery management as a result of the pandemic.

My sincere thanks to Prof Colm O'Brien, chair of the ICO Scientific & PCS Committee and his fellow committee members for organising the excellent programme of clinical and service delivery symposia and talks. It was also wonderful to see so many of our trainees and young ophthalmologists attend this year's meeting. We had a record number of abstract submissions of the highest standard for our 2022 meeting and I congratulate all who had the opportunity to present their work.

I also wish to thank all the conference session chairs and the keynote speakers from home and overseas who contributed so greatly to the success of the meeting. Thanks also to all those who helped with the adjudication of the conference medals.

We are including lots of pictures in this summer 2022 edition - something we missed greatly for our newsletters throughout the pandemic. I hope you enjoy reading it!

*With Best Wishes,
Tim Fulcher*

Annual Mooney Lecture 2022

"Improving the Outcomes of Surgery for Retinal Detachment"



Prof Stanley Chang, K.K. Tse and Ku Teh Ying Professor of Ophthalmology, Columbia University Medical Centre, Annual Mooney Lecturer 2022 pictured with Mr Tim Fulcher, ICO President.

It was a great privilege for the College to welcome Prof Stanley Chang, the K.K. Tse and Ku Teh Ying Professor of Ophthalmology at Columbia University, where he also served as chair and head of department for seventeen years, to deliver the prestigious Annual Mooney Lecture.

Prof David Keegan, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, formally introduced Prof Chang, noting the incredible contribution Prof Chang has made to the specialty throughout his career, retina in particular and his status as a pioneer of several revolutionary surgical approaches to treat complicated forms of retinal detachment which have led to improved outcomes for patients worldwide.

Prof Chang's subject for the 2022 Mooney Lecture discussed the four different methods of treating retinal detachment – pneumatic retinopexy (injection of a gas bubble, with positioning, and laser), scleral buckling

alone, vitrectomy, and vitrectomy and scleral buckling.

He explained how the characteristics of the retinal detachment, such as size and number of tears or extent, cannot be determined by the surgeon, but the selection of the procedure and the adjuncts used in the surgical management are critical to achieving a successful outcome. Evidence-based data on the outcomes of the different methods of the treatment for retinal detachment were discussed and surgical techniques that enhance the outcomes.

In his concluding slides, Prof Chang highlighted the exciting future developments for improving the anatomic and visual outcomes in retinal detachment surgery, bringing to a close an incredible lecture experience for all in attendance.

A video recording of Prof Stanley Chang's Annual Mooney Lecture is available for ICO members to view on our portal.

Delivering Integrated Care in Ireland Symposium

Opening the 'Delivering Integrated Care in Ireland' symposium, Clinical Lead Prof Billy Power provided an overview and historical context of the programme for ophthalmology and Model of Care, focusing on the implementation of the integrated eye care team and dedicated cataract clinics. Billy also discussed the new clinical pathways for cataract, medical retina and paediatrics, the benefits and the potential challenges going forward.

Prof David Keegan's talk discussed the establishment in the past year of a novel governance structure, the virtual Accountable Care Organisation (vACO), to transform, integrate and deploy regional eye care.

David said; "The structure is designed to manage integrated eye care in the North East thus opening a path to tackling one of the longest wait lists, by specialty, in the region.

Ophthalmology also has one of the highest waitlists in the country with nearly 50000 patients waiting for an outpatient appointment and > 8000 waiting for surgery. In the North East alone we estimate 14000 patients are awaiting an outpatient appointment with over 3000 patients waiting for surgery, most of whom for cataract surgery. Eye care is delivered by six distinct healthcare organisations who have all committed to working together to achieve our goals. Our clear focus is on reducing avoidable vision impairment and blindness by reorganising our service delivery via a transformation plan and unique voluntary governance structure. We are near completion of the first year of the development of this pathway and already we are seeing impact on our wait lists."

Dr Margaret Morgan, Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, Royal

Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin and CHO7 gave an update on the CHO7 Adult Ophthalmology Service one year on, discussing how the service came about, the set-up process, progress made to date and the future direction.

In her talk, guest speaker Ms Chriosa O Connor, optometrist at the Mater Hospital discussed the role of an optometrist as a new profession to join the HSE Ophthalmology multi-disciplinary team in Ireland.

Chriosa gave an overview of what roles optometrists are currently involved in since joining, including paediatrics and adult roles and transformation teams, and what roles they could do in the future, with training and support.

A video recording of the 'Delivering Integrated Care in Ireland' symposium presentations is available for ICO members to view on our portal.



Mr Tim Fulcher, President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mater Misericordiae with keynote speakers at the 'Delivering Integrated Care in Ireland' Symposium:

Dr Margaret Morgan, Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin and CHO7; Prof Billy Power, Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin; Ms Chriosa O'Connor, Optometrist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin; Prof David Keegan, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Retina, UCD School of Medicine and National Clinical Lead for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening.

Ocular Surface Disease Symposium

Mr Tom Flynn, Bon Secours Hospital Cork opened the Ocular Surface Disease symposium on the morning of day two of the ICO Annual Conference in Kilkenny. His talk 'Allergic eye disease: myths, mysteries and modern medicine' discussed how allergic eye disease is a broad umbrella term for a variety of ocular surface conditions each with specific and different presentation and prognosis. Tom outlined the presentation and treatment of seasonal allergic conjunctivitis and atopic keratoconjunctivitis, with emphasis on management of steroid-dependent disease. New biologic treatments for atopic dermatitis were also discussed.

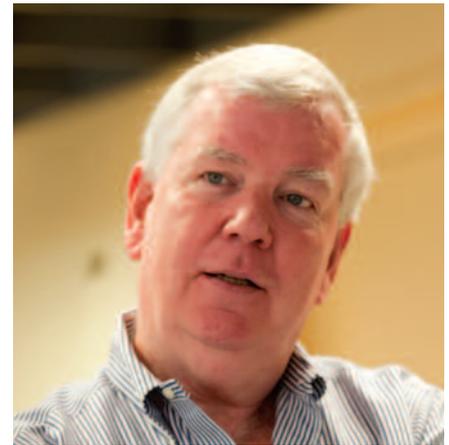
Guest panelist, Mr Samer Hamada from Queen Victoria Hospital London continued the same topic in children in his talk entitled 'Paediatric Ocular Surface Disease: JOMO (joy of missing out!) to FOMO and also talked about specific ocular surface problems in paediatric population.

Professor Conor Murphy of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and

RCSI presented on complex inflammatory disorders of the anterior segment that lead to progressive and often sight threatening and painful conjunctival fibrosis. The principles of the diagnosis and management in both the acute and chronic phases of mucous membrane pemphigoid and Stevens Johnson syndrome were described. The key message was that early recognition and appropriate immunosuppressive and supportive therapies lead to a far better prognosis and quality of life in the long term for affected patients.

The final lecture was given (virtually) by former Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and Chairman of TFOS Mr David Sullivan PhD. David discussed the influence of sex and steroid hormones on dry eye disease.

One of the most compelling epidemiologic features of dry eye disease (DED) is that it occurs predominantly in females. That such a sex-related difference exists in the



Mr David A. Sullivan, Chairman, Board of Directors, Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), Boston, US and former Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School joined the panel discussion virtually with his presentation entitled 'Ménage à Trois: Sex, Sex Steroids and Dry Eye Disease.'

prevalence of an eye disease is not a surprise, as the influence of sex on the eye has been known since the time of Hippocrates. In the late 1800s there was widespread belief among physicians that ocular health was dramatically influenced by sex, and that males were by no means as prone to diseases of the eye from sexual causes as females. Since that time, many sex-related differences in the eye have been attributed to the effects of sex steroids (e.g. androgens and estrogens).

David Sullivan discussed how researchers at the Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS) believe that recognition of these sex-related differences and the determination of their underlying basis (e.g. sex steroid action) are extremely important. He explained such understanding may be translated into new insights into the physiological control of ocular tissues, as well as the generation of novel therapeutic strategies to treat DED. His talk highlighted these interrelationships between sex, sex steroids and DED.

Session chair, Ms Nikolina Budimlija noted the wonderful advantage and pleasure of the return to our College's in-person meeting, the long discussions post symposium, which continued throughout the coffee break and which showed that Ocular Surface Disease is an important topic in everyday practice.



Prof. Conor Murphy, Professor of Ophthalmology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Mr Samer Hamada, Clinical Lead and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, UK, Ms Nikolina Budimlija (session Chair), Ocular Surface Specialist, Institute of Eye Surgery, Waterford and Mr Tom Flynn, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Bon Secours Hospital, Cork.

Planning for the Future Symposium

Ms Dawn Sim opened the 'Planning for the Future' symposium (Wednesday, 18th May) with her virtual talk on the topic 'The idiosyncrasies of Telemedicine in Ophthalmology'. Ms Sims obtained her PhD from the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology for her work on endothelial progenitor stem cells and has published extensively on diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and retinal vein occlusions.

Her presentation at the ICO Conference discussed new technologies in retinal imaging, digital health, and the field of teleophthalmology. Dawn is working with device-agnostic platforms to facilitate the acceleration of new technology and artificial intelligence software into clinical practice.

Ms Aoife Doyle, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin highlighted the work of the Lean Team at Ireland East Hospital Group and of the ophthalmology team at RVEEH with CHO6 and CHO7 in her talk 'Transitioning Stable Glaucoma Care to the Community'.

Having closely followed developments in glaucoma care in the UK in recent years, Aoife set up a virtual glaucoma clinic at RVEEH in 2018. A key component of this was the early adoption of an electronic record (Medisight) for patient management.

During the Covid-19 pandemic she worked together with the Lean Team at Ireland East Hospital Group and Professor Colm O'Brien to set up a Drive-Through IOP clinic at the City West Facility that saw over 650 patients from RVEEH and MMUH between August 2020 – July 2021.

Aoife participated in a Lean Healthcare initiative on glaucoma in 2020-2021 and after further training was awarded a Bronze qualification for work on delivery of virtual care, improving visual field capacity and establishing and managing the RVEEH side of the City West Initiative.

With her team, Aoife has recently extended that model to the CHO7 area together with Dr. Margaret Morgan, with staff training commenced to introduce a similar clinic in CHO6. This is helping to more efficiently deliver care to people with glaucoma in the community and closer to home. It will also help to improve capacity for the hospital eye services to see the more complex and surgical patients and reduce waiting times, improving outcomes in glaucoma care through the collaboration of the hospital and community eye care services.

In his talk, panelist guest speaker Mr Jonathan Clarke, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, discussed the set up and safe assessment of diagnostic (virtual) clinic pathways



Ms Dawn Sim, Lead Medical Director of Ophthalmology, Genentech Roche; Director of Telemedicine, Moorfields Department of Digital Medicine; Associate Professor at the University College London, Institute of Ophthalmology joined the discussion virtually from Los Angeles for her talk exploring 'The idiosyncrasies of Telemedicine in Ophthalmology'.

A consultant in the glaucoma service at Moorfields Eye Hospital since 2009, Jonathan is Clinical Trials Lead for the glaucoma service with a responsibility for delivering clinical trials for new pharmaceutical treatments.

He is also Joint Director of the Moorfields North Division, involved in testing and setting up new models of care including virtual clinics for glaucoma and medical retina patients.

Ms Evelyn O'Neill, Consultant Ophthalmologist provided an overview of the changes that were made at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Eye Emergency Department during the pandemic in her talk highlighting the transitioning of care and lessons learned during COVID.



Mr Jonathan Clarke, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, Ms Evelyn O'Neill, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin, Mr Tim Fulcher, (Chair), ICO President and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin, and Ms Aoife Doyle, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin

ICO Annual Conference 2022

16th – 18th May, Kilkenny Convention Centre, Lyrath Estate.



*Prof Stanley Chang, K.K. Tse and Ku Teh Ying
Professor of Ophthalmology, Columbia University
Medical Centre pictured with David Keegan*



Jeremy O'Connor, Mark James, Behrooz Golchin, Janice Brady, John Doris and Paul-Eduard Stanciu



Jeremy O'Connor, Tom Flynn and Eamonn O'Connell



Aziz Rehman and Siobhan Kelly, CEO, Irish College of Ophthalmologists



John Stokes, James Morgan and Joanne Kearney



Alison Blake, Patricia Quinlan and Denise Curtin

ICO Annual Confer



Michael Troy, Fionn O'Leary, Alexandra McCreery and Ian Brennan



Mr Samer Hamada, Clinical Lead and Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, UK, Tom Flynn, Nikolina Budimlja and Colm O'Brien



Mark Cahill, Dara Kilmartin, and Rob Acheson



Grace O'Malley and Alison Greene



Eimear O'Leary, Amy O'Regan and Esraa Hegazy



Mary Walsh and Aisling Naylor

ence 2022

16th – 18th May,
Kilkenny Convention
Centre, Lyraeth Estate.



Grace McCabe, Debbie Wallace and Amy O'Regan



Chrisa O'Connor, Optometrist, Mater Hospital, Dublin, Jaina Byrne, Orthoptist, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin and Kathryn McCreery



Niamh Collins, Ciara Liston, Advanced Nurse Practitioner (Glaucoma), Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Ruth Ellard



Liam Bourke, Ruth Ellard, Yvonne Delaney, Kealan McElhinney and Robert McGrath



Brian Ó Tuama, Fionn O'Leary, James Morris and Gareth O'Dwyer



Joanne Kearney, Nikola Brummel-Murphy, Rebecca Martin, Training Programme Manager, Irish College of Ophthalmologists and Sacha Hutchinson

ICO National Training Programme

ICO Dean, Miss Yvonne Delaney, hosted a session at the ICO Conference to update members on the significant progress and development of the ICO National Training Programmes over recent years. In particular, Miss Delaney discussed the advancement of the dedicated Medical Ophthalmology specialty training programme, launched in 2017.

The standalone programme was developed in response to the demand for ophthalmic specialists to treat patients in the areas of greatest eyecare demand, namely medical retina, glaucoma and paediatric ophthalmology, coupled with an increasing ageing demographic and the huge expansion of new medical treatments for sight threatening conditions.

This has led to a big shift in how we practice and deliver medical ophthalmology and the reconfigured national training programme has been designed to address workforce and service demands, with the curriculum mapped to the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology Model of Care.

The ICO National Training Programme timeline highlights key milestones for the College training pathway over the past two decades.

With the opportunity to regroup at the College's first in person meeting in three years, the ICO felt it was timely and important to put a spotlight on all that has been achieved in recent years, and throughout 2020-2022 despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Yvonne noted that the progress is a result of collaboration between the trainees on the programme, the trainers in the training units and the entire ophthalmic community including the work of the Clinical



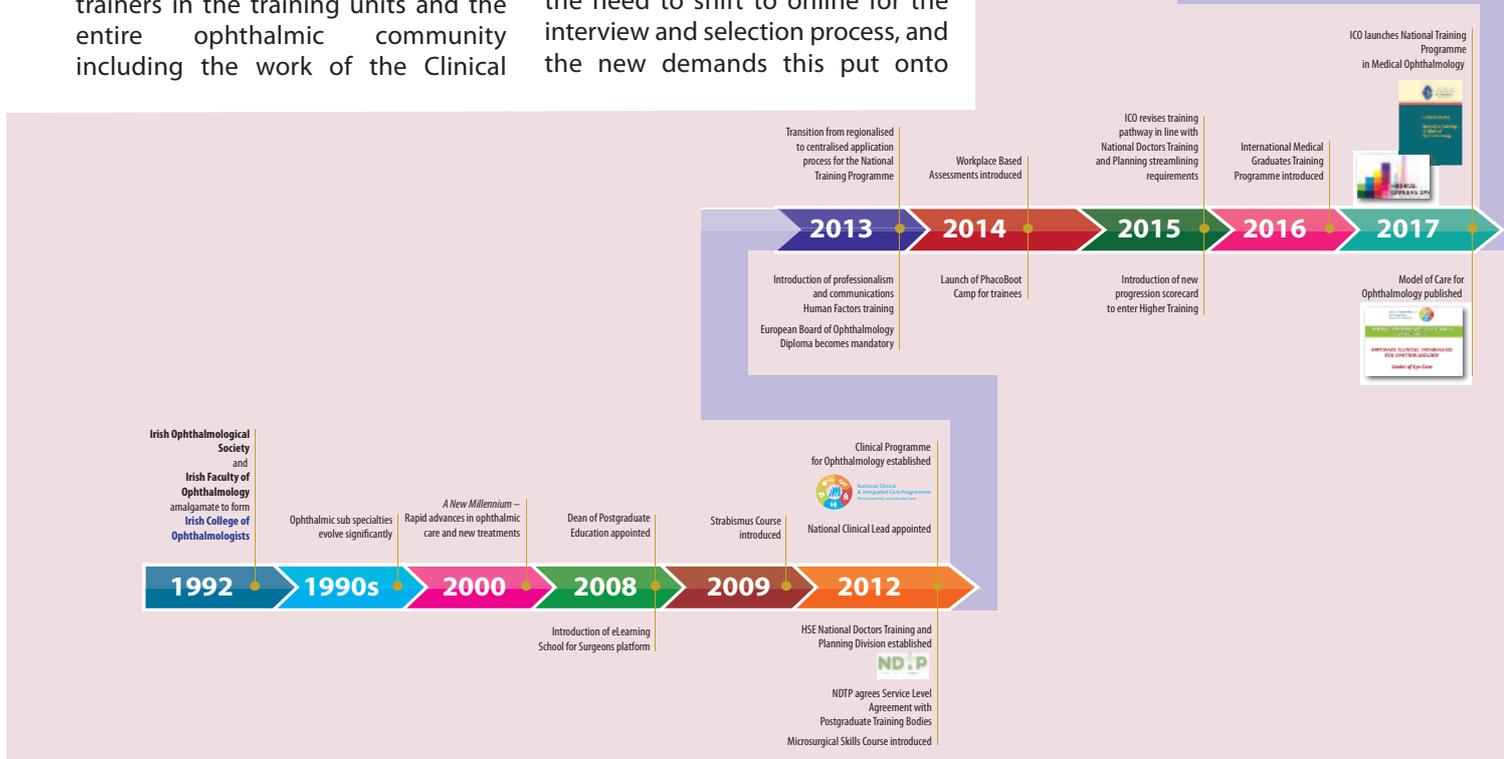
Miss Yvonne Delaney, Dean of Postgraduate Education, Irish College of Ophthalmologists pictured during her talk about the developments of the ICO National Training Programme at the ICO Annual Conference.

Programme alongside the Irish College of Ophthalmologists.

She congratulated and commended all ICO medical and surgical trainees for their commitment, resilience and resolve throughout the past two years in particular, acknowledging the incredibly challenging period it has been, and indeed to the trainers. Yvonne noted the need to shift to online for the interview and selection process, and the new demands this put onto

applicants looking to come onto the programme and those progressing on to higher training. A 'Class of' roll of honour was called for the Basic and Higher specialty training in medical and surgical ophthalmology for 2021 and 2022 in recognition of their achievement.

During the session, Yvonne had the pleasure of formally presenting the winners of the 2021 medals for Best Paper and Best Poster which had been selected following the presentations made at the virtual ICO Winter Meeting. The ICO congratulates Dr Christine Goodchild, winner of the Sir William Wilde Medal 2021 for Best Poster 'Bilateral Penetrating Eye Injury Secondary to Road Traffic Accident in a Modern Era' and Dr Sarah Powell, winner of the Barbara Knox Medal 2021 for Best Paper 'The role of $\alpha\beta3$ integrin and its inhibition in lamina cribrosa cell mechanotransduction in glaucoma'.



Barbara Knox Medal
2021 – Best Paper



Dr Sarah Powell, winner of the Barbara Knox Medal 2021 for Best Paper 'The role of $\alpha v\beta 3$ integrin and its inhibition in lamina cribrosa cell mechanotransduction in glaucoma'.

Sir William Wilde Medal
2021 – Best Poster



Dr Christine Goodchild, winner of the Sir William Wilde Medal 2021 for Best Poster 'Bilateral Penetrating Eye Injury Secondary to Road Traffic Accident in a Modern Era'.

The ICO is continuing our communications campaign with the Schools of Medicine 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 for the medical programme year-on-year to align a specialised medical workforce with patient demand.

On behalf of the College, Yvonne thanked the Professors of Ophthalmology and tutors (Prof Conor Murphy, Prof Colm O'Brien, Prof Lorraine Cassidy, Dr Fiona Harney and Dr Mark James) in the Schools of Medicine for their support of the campaign throughout COVID, when it has been challenging to get in front of students and interns to share this information. This has included the circulation of the ICO's new animated explainer video for the National Training Programme in Medical Ophthalmology and the facilitation of the return to in person career talks. Our thanks to Dr Brian Woods and Prof Colm O'Brien for their coordination of the UCD student talk last March.

COVID impact – move to virtual platform for assessments, interviews, and Medical Careers Day

ICO launches National eTutorials Series

First sitting of mandatory sub-specialty assessment for Higher Medical Trainees

Introduction of OKAP[®] Exam for Higher Surgical Trainees

ICO launches Masterclass Series for Medical Ophthalmology

Communication campaign for promotion of Medical Ophthalmology Training

Launch of animated video

2020 2021 2022

8 new Higher Medical Training posts funded by the HSE
New Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists appointed

Medical Students Ophthalmology Society of Ireland formed with ICO support

Higher Medical Ophthalmology Training expands to new Integrated Eye Care Team sites

European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) Lecture 2022

Ms Elizabeth McElnea delivered the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) Lecture 2022 on the topic "Oculoplastics and Orbit Today" at the conference.

In her lecture, Elizabeth presented and reviewed a number of emergent ophthalmic plastics and orbit related cases of interest to trainees, general ophthalmologists and sub-specialists alike, and the safe and appropriate management of these conditions all of which have important systemic associations.

Elizabeth completed her fellowship training in oculoplastic, orbit and lacrimal disease at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne, Victoria and in cornea and anterior segment disease at Royal Perth Hospital in Perth, Western Australia before returning to Ireland and her current post at University Hospital Galway.



Pictured at the Irish College of Ophthalmologists Annual Conference 2022 is Ms Elizabeth McElnea (centre), Consultant Ophthalmologist, University Hospital Galway with Miss Yvonne Delaney, Dean of Postgraduate Education, ICO and Prof Colm O'Brien, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mater Misericordiae and Chair of the ICO Scientific Committee.



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National Training Programme Key Milestones Timeline

Recent Clinical Trials

The 'Recent Clinical Trials' session at the ICO Annual Conference opened with a presentation (virtual) delivered by Prof Anthony King, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Nottingham University Hospital, NHS and Honorary Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at the University of Nottingham, UK on 'The Treatment of Advanced Glaucoma Study - Outcomes at 24 months'.

Prof King is the Chief Investigator of the NIHR funded Treatment of Advanced Glaucoma Study (TAGS), past President of the UK & Eire Glaucoma Society and former Royal College of Ophthalmologist glaucoma lead for the development of a National Ophthalmic Database for trabeculectomy.

This was followed by Prof Ian Flitcroft, Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, who presented a summary of important trials in myopia management, highlighting what we do now know, what we don't know and how to tackle cases that fall outside the remit of existing clinical trials.

Guest speaker, Prof Tunde Peto,

Queen's University, Belfast discussed how really exciting clinical trials in medical retina have become during the past few years. She said the choice of treatment for not only saving but potentially improving sight might feel overwhelming at times not only for the patients and their carers but for the clinicians as well.

Tunde's talk explored how trials in the field of neovascular AMD and Diabetic Macular Oedema evolved and which recent trials might help us to truly change our clinical pathways so clinicians can provide the best care to our patients.



Pictured (l-r) at the 'Recent Clinical Trials' session at the Annual Conference were chair Ms Janice Brady, Consultant Ophthalmologist, University Hospital Waterford, Prof Ian Flitcroft, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Temple Street and Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology UCD and Adjunct Professor of Vision Science, Technological University of Dublin and Prof Tunde Peto Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Queen's University, Belfast.



Prof Anthony King

ICO AGM

ICO President Mr Tim Fulcher chaired proceedings for the ICO Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th May.

Tim formally welcomed the Board members who joined at the last AGM (25.09.21): Aziz Rehman, Eamonn O'Connell and Sean Chen and newly appointed Board Members as of 17th May AGM; Elizabeth McElnea, Mark James and Jim O'Reilly.

On behalf of the Board, Tim thanked Joanne Kearney, Paul Connell and



Kathryn McCreery whose 3-year term has concluded for their contribution to the College.

The focus of the Board has continued to be on the regulatory requirements of both the Medical Council and the Charities Regulator. A 2022 work plan was agreed to guide Board activities and this is posted on the members portal for information. There is a significant amount of ongoing work required to satisfy Medical Council requirements, including the development of a range of policies and procedures, including this year a Trainer Education and Training Post Accreditation and Unit Inspections.

All relevant documentation, including the ICO audited accounts have been added to the members portal.

Parallel Workshops

Ocular Motility Workshop

In her talk entitled 'The Basics', Ms Edel Cosgrave, Consultant Ophthalmologist at University Hospital Waterford, gave an introduction to the concept of binocular vision and its origins, focusing particularly on the superior and inferior oblique muscles.

Orthoptist at Beaumont Hospital, Ms Jaina Byrne's talk 'Seeing is Believing' focused on neuro and supranuclear ocular movements, with an overview on what assessing ocular movements actually means and important clinical investigations to consider.

Mr Edward Loane, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital discussed the surgical management of strabismus cases in his talk 'Strabismic Thinking'. Edward's clinical areas of expertise include strabismus and ocular motility disorders in adults and children, and cataract surgery.

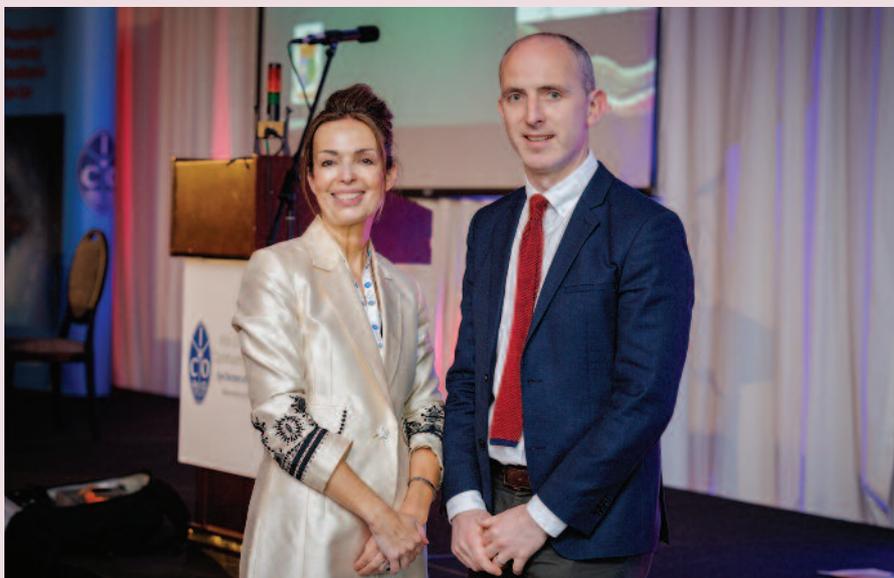


Pictured at the Ocular Motility Workshop session were presenters Jaina Byrne, Orthoptist, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, Ms Edel Cosgrave, Consultant Ophthalmologist, University Hospital Waterford and Mr Edward Loane, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin

OCT Angiography in Practice

Mr Tomás Burke delivered a workshop with a focus on "OCT Angiography in Practice". Tomás introduced the theory of how OCTA images are acquired and generated, and also how this novel

technology can be utilised in clinical practice with a focus on case-based discussion, tips for maximising OCTA image quality, as well as how to mitigate troublesome artifacts.



Mr Tomás Burke, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin pictured with Yvonne Delaney.

Upcoming Autumn Conference

Shared Learnings - Eye Care in Focus

The ICO is excited to announce plans in relation to our first conference for the extended eye care team, which will take place in September (confirmed date to follow shortly).

The conference will be a full day clinical education meeting, providing a shared learning platform for ophthalmologists, general practitioners, optometrists, orthoptists, nurses, technicians and patient support groups, via clinical symposia and panel discussion.

A parallel industry exhibition will run alongside the educational sessions. The Conference will be held in Dublin and we look forward to updating members on the full programme and registration details in the coming weeks.

ICO Honorary Medal Winners 2022

Sir William Wilde Medal 2022 –
Best Poster

'12-month analysis of emergency argon laser retinopathy in an Irish tertiary hospital'

Dr Rory Holohan

The aim of the study was to identify the post-procedural outcomes following treatment of retinal tears with argon laser photocoagulation by trainee doctors in an emergency setting. A retrospective review of all patients who underwent emergency argon laser photocoagulation (retinopexy) for retinal breaks between January 2021 and December 2021 in Cork University Hospital (CUH), a tertiary referral centre in Ireland was carried out for the study.



Dr Robert McGrath, co author of the paper is pictured accepting the award on Dr Rory Holohan's behalf, presented by Prof Colm O'Brien, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Chair of the ICO Scientific Committee.

John Blake Medal 2022 –
Best Scientific Research Paper

'Autotaxin: A Fibrosis Target in the Lamina Cribrosa in Glaucoma'

Dr Amy O'Regan

The aim of the study was to assess the role of autotaxin in the fibrotic changes observed in the LC in glaucoma. As promoter hypomethylation has been shown to regulate autotaxin expression in liver fibrosis, in addition the study aimed to assess autotaxin promoter methylation status in the LC.



Presented by Dr Alison Blake, daughter of the late Dr John Blake.

Barbara Knox Medal 2022 –
Best Paper

'The Ecological Impact of Cataract Surgery – Single-use Items Consumption and Knowledge of Ophthalmic Theatre Staff in University Hospital Limerick'

Dr Emilie Mahon

The aims of the study were two-fold; to assess theatre staff knowledge and opinion concerning the environmental impact of phacoemulsification surgery, and secondly to measure the weight of waste generated for each patient undergoing cataract surgery and ultimately assess the annual single-use item waste weight generated in UHL for performing cataract surgeries, in order to compare this to other centres' data.



Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, University Hospital Limerick, accepting the Barbara Know Medal for the Best Paper 2022 on Dr Emilie Mahon's behalf, presented by Prof Colm O'Brien, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin at the Irish College of Ophthalmologists Conference.