

Newsletter

ISSUE 22

WINTER 2018

Message from the President



Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of 2018, our Centenary year has been memorable and busy. The recent Winter Meeting, Montgomery Lecture and Centenary Dinner were well attended and very successful. The 102nd Montgomery Lecture titled "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" was given by Dr Michael Brennan, past President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, from Burlington North Carolina to an overflowing Albert Theatre after which 170 College members and guests packed College Hall in RCSI for a most enjoyable evening.

Siobhan and Ciara are to be commended and thanked for their tremendous effort organizing the centenary events and producing the book! I hope you all enjoy perusing it over Christmas.

My thanks also go to my sister in law Marielle Blake who very kindly at short notice played the Irish harp at the reception following the Montgomery Lecture.

The next ICO event is a joint meeting with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists in conjunction with Charter Day in RCSI on Friday February 8th. The Education Centre of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital will host the morning with speakers from Ireland, north and south, and from Britain, Royal College of Ophthalmologists President Mike Burdon, Alan Mulvihill, Edinburgh, Julie Silvestri, Belfast and Evelyn O'Neill, Dublin on 'Life and Sight threatening conditions in Ophthalmology'.

Happy Christmas to you all! DR ALISON BLAKE

Centenary Celebrations 10S 1918 - ICO 2018

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists marked the very special occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Ophthalmological Society, the forerunner to the ICO, with a series of events on Friday, 16th November.

A most wonderful gathering of our friends and colleagues from across the country came together that evening for the Annual Montgomery Lecture, presented by Dr Michael Brennan, Past President of the AAO, followed by the Centenary Dinner in the RCSI College Hall.

Among the international guests welcomed by the College were Dr Hank Bonnemaijer, President of the Ophthalmic Section of the UEMS, Mr Mike Burdon, President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and Dr Wagih Aclimandos, President Elect of the SOE – European

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Dr Michael Brennan, Montgomery Lecturer 2018 pictured with Alison Blake, ICO President at the RCSI, Friday, November 16th. Dr Brennan served as 2009 American Academy of Ophthalmology President and has been the Academy's international envoy for many years, and serves on the Global Advisors Committee. Michael is a wonderful friend of the College and we were delighted to welcome him to Ireland to deliver this year's Montgomery Lecture and to mark this special centenary occasion.



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If you would like to make any suggestions for future issues of the College Newsletter please contact Siobhan on siobhan.kelly@eyedoctors.ie

Centenary Celebrations • IOS 1918 - ICO 2018

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Society of Ophthalmology. It was also a great pleasure to share this celebratory occasion with so many of our medical colleagues, including Prof Ellen O'Sullivan, Chair of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, Mr Brian Kinirons, President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Prof Mary Horgan, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Prof Martina Hennessey, School of Medicine Trinity College Dublin, and Prof Laura Viani and Ms Margaret O'Donnell, Council members of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

The College greatly appreciated the support shown by Senator Martin Conway, Seanad spokesperson on Justice and Equality, and NCBI Council member through his attendance at the Centenary event, which coincided with the Fine Gael Ard Fheis weekend. Senator Conway expressed his wish to ensure the Oireachtas was represented on this important milestone occasion for the ICO and in recognition of all that has been achieved by the specialty ophthalmology.

Mr Paul Ledwidge, Chair and President of the NCBI was also in attendance, along with guests from fellow Irish Patient Organisations, Prof Brendan Buckley, President of Fighting Blindness, and Mr Pat Burke, Chair of Irish Guide Dogs.

It was an honour for the College to welcome Desmond Archer and Patrick Condon, who served as Presidents of the Irish Ophthalmological Society before the organisation merged with the Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology in 1992 to form our current day association.

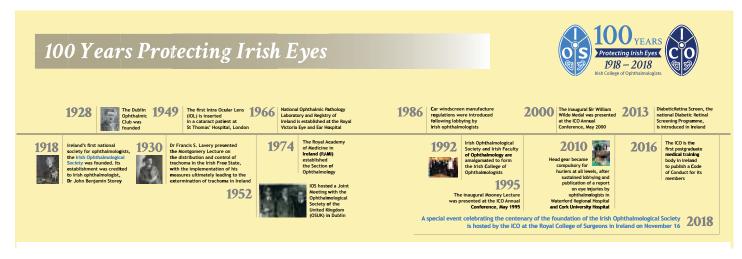
The College were especially delighted to see so many of our own members and trainees for such a memorable night.



Dr Rory Dwyer, Ms Emma Curtis, Mr Brian Kneafsey, Ms Margaret O'Donnell and Philip Crowley, HSE Director of Quality Improvement



Prof Martina Hennessey, Trinity College Dublin and Prof Mary Horgan, President, RCPI, with Alison Blake



Centenary Celebrations • IOS 1918 - ICO 2018



Desmond Archer, Patrick Condon, Amy Archer, Alison Blake, Annie Nolan, Max Graham, Evelyn Graham, and John Nolan



Fiona Moriarty, Dr Brian Kinirons, President of the College of Anaesthetists in Ireland and Sacha Hutchinson



Mr David Quinlan, Susan Kelly, Mr. Wagih Aclimandos, President Elect of the SOE, and Dr Richard Blake



Mr. & Mrs. Hank Bonnemaijer, President of the Ophthalmic Section, UEMS and Mr Wagih Aclimandos, President Elect of the SOE – European Society of Ophthalmology



Pat Logan, Mr Wagih Aclimandos, President Elect of the SOE, Alison Blake, Mr Mike Burdon, President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists and Patricia Quinlan

Winter Meeting - Crowd Sourced Audit

The ICO Winter Meeting took place at the Albert Theatre in the RCSI on the morning of the 16th November. The aim of the forum was to explore the possibility of a national audit co-ordinated by the College and open to all members of the ICO.

Mr Donal O'Connor, Adjunct Lecturer in Surgery at Trinity College Dublin, gave a presentation advising on how best to structure the template for a 'crowd sourced audit'. He outlined the clinical value of multi source data collection by medical students (STARSurg), trainees (EuroSurg) and GlobalSurg Collaberative. Large numbers of patients are studied in a short time, while preventing repetition and poor utilization of finite resources it allows greater generalisability across a multi-centre setting. Supervision and electronic security are essential.

A proposed National Audit on LogMAR Visual Acuity recording was outlined by Mr John Doris. There is marked variability in how vision is recorded, the methods used and the issues surrounding comparative analysis.

Since the national policy to introduce

LogMAR VA Screening of School Children was introduced in 2015 and the Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme is planning to adopt LogMAR vision notation, it was proposed that the members look at their current VA systems & assess any need for change.

Participation in the national audit is voluntary and hope is that the information will give the members data to support any application for capital expenditure required in a business plan to the HSE.

A sample template will be emailed to members shortly.

The RAMI Ophthalmic Section meeting followed and the College congratulate Emma Duignan, Olga Klis, Christine Goodchild, Niamh Wynne, Maxwell Treacy and Emily Hughes who were presented with the European Board of Ophthalmology Diploma.



Congratulations to Niamh Wynne, Emma Duignan, Christine Goodchild and Olga Klis who were presented with the European Board of Ophthalmology Diploma at the RAMI Ophthalmic Section Winter Meeting at the RCSI, November 16th

NEW AUTOMATED ICO MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

From 2019, the ICO will use an online system for membership renewal, conference and course bookings and payment of annual subscription. The new automated system will provide a secure and efficient service for members for bookings and payments and will also facilitate quick access to receipts and enable easy updates to personal membership requirements. Further instruction and details on the system will be circulated by the College in the coming weeks.

Joint Meeting ICO/ Royal College of Ophthalmologists

The ICO will host a joint meeting with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists on Friday 8th February at the Learning Centre, Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital. The session is scheduled as part of the RCSI Charter Day meetings, which runs from Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th February.

The session on the morning of Friday 8th on "Life and Sight Threatening Conditions in Ophthalmology" will welcome keynote speakers from Ireland and the UK, each focusing on a sub specialty of ophthalmology and the discussion of case examples that emphasise the importance of the first visit to the outcome.

Mr Mike Burdon, President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London, will present on neuro-ophthalmology, Mr Alan Mulvihill, Edinburgh, on paediatric ophthalmology, Dr Evelyn O'Neill, Dublin, on emergency medicine and Miss Julie Sylvestrie, Belfast, will discuss retina cases.

If you wish to attend the ophthalmology session only there is no registration fee. Please contact Siobhan Kelly at the ICO office. The full RCSI Charter Day programme is available on the RCSI website.

Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist Post

Following representations from the ICO, the HSE's Consultants Appointment Advisory Committee has recently decided to add the post of Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist to the list of approved titles in the public health service. To be eligible to apply for this post a doctor must be on the specialist register, Division of Ophthalmology. This new post reflects the evolution and developments that have occurred in ophthalmology over the past number of years.

10th Annual Adare Retinal Meeting



Pictured at the 10th Adare Retinal Meeting which took place on September 27th in the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Limerick, were (l-r) key note speakers Noel Horgan, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Philip Cleary, Bons Secours Cork, Marie Hickey Dwyer, University Hospital Limerick, Paul Kenna, Ocular Genetics Unit, Trinity College Dublin, Alison Blake, Cavan Regional Hospital, Patricia Quinlan, Blackrock Clinic and guest lecturer Mr Mandeep Sagoo, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London.

Marking its 10th year anniversary, the Adare Retinal Meeting, coordinated by Marie Hickey Dwyer, delivered an excellent programme of talks which once again attracted an audience of ophthalmologists from all over the country. A key element to the success of the meeting is the degree of engagement and participation by the delegates during the forum discussions, and the spread of attendance from trainees and NCHD's, to community and hospital consultant ophthalmologists, making it an inclusive and educational exercise for all attending.

Marie paid tribute to all those who presented at the meeting. In particular, she thanked guest lecturer, London based ophthalmologist Mr Mandeep Sagoo, for his presentation on "Ocular Tumours Management".

The day's events facilitated robust audience discussion and provided a helpful platform for delegates to explore scenarios and hear expert opinions and advice from colleagues.

Winner of ICO/Novartis Eye Research Bursary 2018 Announced at Adare Retinal Meeting

The winner of the annual ICO/Novartis Research Bursary for 2018-19, Emily Greenan, was announced at the Annual Adare Retinal Meeting in Limerick on September 28.

The research focusing on ocular inflammation in dry eye disease will be carried out between the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland as part of Dr Greenan's PhD under the supervision of Conor Murphy and Dr

Joan Ní Gabhann at the Department of Ophthalmology and Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics, RCSI.

Explaining the rationale of the study and the significance of the being awarded funding for his project, Emily said, "I am both delighted and honoured to be this year's recipient of the ICO/ Novartis Research Bursary grant. Our research is aimed at inflammation of the ocular surface, seen to be the key driving factor underlying the pathogenesis of dry eye disease. By identifying the dysregulated panel of microRNA, short sequences of mRNA that normally control the production or inhibition of inflammatory proteins, we hope to offer new therapeutic targets for the disease. We will combine this knowledge with recently developed nanoparticle drug delivery systems to provide a more effective and targeted treatment option for patient use in the future."

Emily will present an update on her study at the ICO Annual Conference next May



Caroline Gardiner and Yvonne Delaney



Emily Greenan, recipient of the ICO/Novartis Eye Research Bursary 2018 is pictured with Alison Blake, ICO President and Doreen Curran, Novartis Ireland



Kesavan RaviKumar, Dharm Pandeya and Zubair Idrees

Centenary Celebration





Daire Burke and Patrick Burke, Chair, Irish Guide Dogs



Susan Kelly, Magdy Nasralla, Iqbal Khan, Rizwana Khan and Aziz Rehman



Siobhan Kelly and Ciara Keenan



Jonathan Miller and Sarah Wilson

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Edward Loane, Mr Mike Burdon, President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists and John Doris



Ann McCarthy, Prof. Brendan Buckley, Chair, Fighting Blindness and Dr. Mary Buckley



Claire Hartnett, Maedbh Rhatigan and Nora Mohd



Ed Naughten, Dr. Kate Ni Argain and Micheal O'Rourke



Gerald Gleeson, Marie Hickey-Dwyer and Dr Michael Brennan, American Academy of Ophthalmology



Emma Duignan, Mohammed Hammoud and Annie Nolan

Professor Peter Barry Memorial Lecture

The second annual Professor Peter Barry Memorial Lecture was given by Mr Paul Rosen, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on Thursday 15th November last. Mr Rosen spoke on 'Cataract Surgeon Meets Retinal Surgeon: Front to Back or Back to Front?' to a full auditorium at the Conference and Research Centre, Eye and Ear Hospital.

Like the late Peter Barry, Paul is a former President of the European Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ESCRS) and both an accomplished and internationally renowned cataract and vitreoretinal surgeon. Furthering this theme, he maintained that the ideal intervention for severe ocular trauma, involving both

anterior and posterior segments, was a dual trained cataract and vitreoretinal surgeon. He pointed out that 9 of the 13 previous Presidents of ESCRS were also vitreoretinal surgeons.

Paul discussed the optimum timing of secondary intervention, types of secondary lens implants and various techniques of fixation, suturing, glueing or even cautery placement. Interactive discussion followed on long term stability, effects on the cornea, biometry accuracy and practical useful suggestions. Mr Rosen was then presented with the Lecture Medal by Mrs Carmel Barry. This event was kindly supported by Thea Pharmaceuticals.







Guest Speaker Mr Paul Rosen, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford



Moji Ositodi, Aideen Hogan and Rizwana Khan



Shane Whitlow and Bobby Tang

Bayer/ICO Clinical Fellowship

Report by Elizabeth McElnea, Joint Winner of the Bayer/ICO Clinical Fellowship in Ophthalmology 2016/2017

The inaugural Bayer/ICO Clinical Fellowship in Ophthalmology 2016/2017 was awarded to trainees Andrea Ryan and Elizabeth McElnea at the ICO Winter Meeting in December 2016.

Andrea Ryan has since successfully completed her Fellowship in Medical Retina at Moorefields Eye Hospital in London.

Elizabeth McElnea has completed training at Macclesfield District General Hospital and Aintree University Hospital in the United Kingdom. She subsequently travelled to the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne where she is completing further surgical training in the Orbit, Oculoplastics and Lacrimal unit there.

In her time in Australia to date Elizabeth has already been delighted with the cases relevant to her chosen subspecialty to which she has been exposed – in terms not only of volume but also variety, complexity and rarity.

She describes an excellent timetable with provision for both supervised and unsupervised surgery, pre-operative and post-operative clinics that enable monitoring of each patient's complete clinical course, completion of a number

of clinical research projects and even some evenings by the beach!

Elizabeth has been impressed by the reception she has received in Melbourne since her arrival, describing how the staff at the unit and indeed the hospital as a whole extends a very warm welcome each year to a large number of trainees from a wide range of countries. She notes that a highlight of the fellowship is undoubtedly the opportunity to work with so many people from such a variety of training backgrounds.

Elizabeth said the hospital's approach to education and training is also enviable, with an ambitious weekly program delivered by a number of enthusiastic trainers and a constant interest in the completion and publication of high quality clinically based research.

Her travel to further afield has however only served to increase Dr. McElnea's admiration for many of the ophthalmology departments she has worked in to date which, she believes, provide fantastic patient care often with greater limitations on resources.

Elizabeth hopes soon to be competent in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients with the full complement of conditions encountered in her subspecialty. She very much looks forward to bringing the skills and expertise gained during these latter portions of her training back to the Irish health service and the large and indeed growing population of Irish patients affected.

Asked of the impact of receiving the Bayer/ICO Fellowship award Elizabeth said that this has indeed been massive.

"The award is important in that it acknowledges the challenges posed by fellowship training. In doing so it also highlights the efforts made by many of my predecessors to obtain the same without similar funding opportunities. I have received excellent training under the supervision of a number of fantastic mentors in a variety of settings when in the absence of the fellowship award any one of these may have been impossible. I am extremely grateful for the support offered by Bayer and the ICO and hope that in future more trainees benefit similarly."

CME - Personal Development Plans

Members will have been previously advised that one of the areas that the Medical Council wishes the training bodies to explore with respect to the professional competence scheme is Personal Development Plans.

These are documents that prompt a doctor to give thought, at the commencement of the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) year, to the activities and areas of practice that they would like to focus their CME activity on for the forthcoming year.

The Council is happy for the Training Bodies to encourage and incentivise their members to prepare a plan and use it to guide forthcoming CME activity.

To help in that endeavour, the ICO have drawn up a professional development plan template. This template was circulated by the ICO office to our members by email recently.

If you wish to have it resent, please contact Marian Scully at marian.scully@eyedoctors.ie



Elizabeth McElnea, joint recipient of the ICO Bayer Clinical Fellowship 2016 pictued with fellow awardee Andrea Ryan and Yvonne Delaney, ICO Dean

Mr Patrick Condon UKISCRS Lifetime Achievement Award

The ICO warmly congratulate our esteemed colleague, Patrick Condon, on his recent accolade of a Lifetime Achievement Award by the UKISCRS in recognition of his outstanding work and contribution to the specialty. Patrick presented his Lecture 'How Shakers and Movers, I Had the Privilege to Know, Shaped my 50 Years in Ophthalmology' at the UKISCRS 42nd Annual Meeting which took place in Leicestershire from 7th – 9th November 2018

A snapshot about Patrick Condon:

Patrick Condon did a 6 year residency program in ophthalmology at the Royal Eye Hospital, London which involved a rotation to the Croydon Eye Unit and Lambeth – St Thomas's Hospital group. He subsequently became a consultant at the Bromley and Farnborough Hospital group for two years before returning to Waterford, Ireland.

During his Waterford appointment, he introduced IOL implantation in the 70s, followed by phacoemulsification surgery which he initiated in Ireland in 1987 reporting on his first 150 cases a year

later. In conjunction with Prof. Michael O'Keeffe at the Mater Hospital in Dublin, he was the first to introduce LASIK to Ireland in 1993 with the use of the Automated Lamellar Keratoplasty microkeratome.

During the late 90s he became actively involved with UKISCRS, becoming president in 1994 and delivering the Choyce Medal Lecture in 2004. Following his appointment in 1982 by Dr Cornelius Binkhorst as the Irish member of the European Intraocular Implant Council, forerunner of the ESCRS, he became congress chairman and treasurer of the ESCRS for almost 10 years, for which he was awarded the Grand Medal of Merit in 1999, followed by the Ridley Medal Lecture in 2005.

Being a member and a constant contributor to each yearly meeting of ASCRS and involved in the amalgamation of the European and American Journals to form the JCRS, he was presented with the ASCRS Hon. Guest Award in 2009 at the annual meeting in San Francisco.

In his lifetime achievement lecture, Patrick reflected on the past 50 years, including photographs and video sequences collected from his wide world travels and experiences.



Mr Patrick Condon, Recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award by the UKISCRS in recognition of his outstanding work and contribution to the specialty.

Save the Date

Feb 8th - Joint ICO/RCOphth Meeting 9.30 - 12.30pm Learning Centre, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital May 15th - 17th, ICO Annual Conference, Galway Bay Hotel June 13th - 16th SOE 2019, Nice, France

July 12th-16th 2020 - Vision 2020 Ireland - 13th International Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation Congress (ISLRR) The Convention Centre, Dublin













Minister for Health officially opens UL Hospitals Group Cataract Centre at Nenagh Hospital

On November 5th, Minister for Health Simon Harris, officially opened the UL Hospitals Cataract Centre at Nenagh Hospital.

Under a nationally funded initiative, Nenagh has become a national centre of excellence for cataract surgery. All suitable cataract surgery within UL Hospitals Group is to migrate from University Hospital Limerick (UHL) to the new theatres at Nenagh.

The first procedure under the initiative was completed in July of this year and with one list of 10-12 patients a day being completed once a week, it is expected that 200 patients will be taken off the surgical waiting list by the end of 2018.

The goal is for the theatre in Nenagh to move from one-day-a-week to five days a week in 2019, when it is expected at least 10 times that number of procedures will be carried out in a full year. This will see Nenagh Hospital not only play a significant role in reducing waiting lists for cataract surgery in the Midwest but will also make a mark nationally by insourcing patients from other regions.

Staff at Nenagh Hospital and the Perioperative Directorate at UL Hospitals Group have worked closely with the HSE Acute Hospitals Division, the Department of Health and the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) in securing the additional resources and funding for this initiative.

In June 2018, the Directorate completed a position paper to establish a stand-alone, high-volume, consultant-led cataract theatre at Nenagh Hospital. This resulted in a commitment of €1 million in capital funding for equipment and additional funding for the extra medical, nursing and administrative resources required to run the service.

Speaking at the official opening, Minister Harris said Nenagh will be a centre of excellence for the UL Hospitals Group and surrounding



Pictured at the opening of the new UL Hospitals Group Cataract Centre at Nenagh Hospital were: (l to r) Ismail Tuwir, Marie Hickey Dwyer, Claire Hartnett, UL Hospitals Group, Minister Simon Harris and Liam Sloyan CEO of NTPF.

counties. Minister Harris said, "Improving access to treatment for patients is a key priority of Government. The opening of the UL Hospitals Cataract Centre at Nenagh Hospital will deliver on this objective, providing improvements for patients in the Midwest and surrounding areas."

Prof Colette Cowan, CEO, UL Hospitals Group said staff were conscious that there was great potential in Nenagh, in line with the national clinical programme for Ophthalmology Model of Eye Care, to make a real difference in cutting waiting lists for cataract surgery initially in the Midwest and ultimately around the country. She added, "The demand for cataract surgery will only increase as the population grows and ages. This national centre helps secure the future of Nenagh Hospital and means more timely, more accessible

access for patients to the state-of-theart theatres here and to the expert multidisciplinary staff that operate here under the corporate and clinical governance structures of the UL Hospitals Group".

Mr Graham Knowles, Chair, UL Hospitals Group, said, "National policy on the role and function of hospitals like Nenagh is clearly set out in the Smaller Hospitals Framework of 2013 and more recently reinforced in Slaintecare. It sets out how our Model 2 hospitals can not only adapt and survive but expand and thrive long into the future by developing ambulatory care, specialist medical, diagnostics and day surgery services. Reading through the Framework, the first two surgical subspecialties mentioned are cataracts and hernias; and Nenagh has this year commenced day case procedures in respect of both."

Centenary Celebrations • IOS 1918 - ICO 2018



Billy Power and Dr Michelle McNicholas



Louise Hendrick and Kieran Ryan, Managing Director of Surgical Affairs



Gerard O'Connor and Edel O'Connor



Prof. Ellen O'Sullivan and Prof. Denis Moriarty



Marie Sweeney and Sacha Hutchinson



Janice Brady and John Doris



Mr Seamus Devitt, Yvonne Delaney, Gerry Fahy and Mr Mike Burdon, President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists



Mark Cahill and Aideen Cahill