



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

ICO NEWS

ISSUE 39

SPRING 2025



John Doris

President's Message

Welcome to the spring edition of the ICO newsletter.

On behalf of the College, I would like to thank Yvonne Delaney for her dedicated service as our Dean of Ophthalmology. We have very much valued her leadership, guidance and support. She will be a hard act to follow.

We are currently in the process of selecting our new programme directors for Medical and Surgical Ophthalmology.

Conference season is nearly upon us and this year we are taking the ICO annual conference to the medieval city of Kilkenny in the heart of Ireland's Ancient East. Our conference will be held at the historic seventeenth-century Lyrath Estate Hotel. Our scientific committee chaired by Professor Conor Murphy have put together a fantastic programme and I am really looking forward to welcoming our Mooney lecturer Professor Andrew Dick.

The world is going through a period of political and climate uncertainty. Our sustainability agenda is more important than ever and the ICO has committed to keeping sustainability central on our agenda at future conferences. Continuing on this theme, congratulations to Dr Emilie Mahon and the team for winning the Sustainability in Healthcare award.

There are potential major changes to the future shape of ophthalmology service delivery in Ireland. Global Equity is looking for a home and Irish Ophthalmology is in its sights. While this brings opportunities, it also brings threats. We currently enjoy professional autonomy which enables accountability. We also enjoy the trust of our patients. As members of the ICO community, we have a responsibility to advocate in the best interests of our patients and our profession.

I look forward to seeing you at our conference in Kilkenny.

Kind regards

JOHN DORIS,
ICO President

ICO Annual Conference 2025

The College looks forward to welcoming our members to the ICO Annual Conference, which takes place at the Kilkenny Convention Centre, Lyrath Estate, from Wednesday, 21st to Friday, 23rd May.

Dedicated sessions at this year's meeting will include symposia on the topics of General Retina and Genetics, Neuro-ophthalmology, Anterior Segment and Developing Emergency Ophthalmology.

A continuation of the discussion from last November's ICO Winter Meeting on the Future of Clinical Practice will also be

included in the programme, along with a dedicated session on Sustainability in Eye Care, reflecting the College's ongoing commitment to prioritising this important issue.

We are delighted to welcome Professor Andrew Dick, Duke Elder Chair and Director of Institute of Ophthalmology at University College

Adare Retinal Meeting



L-r Pictured at the Adare Retinal Meeting, which took place on October 3rd, 2024 at the Dunraven Arms Hotel in Limerick were meeting coordinator, Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer, University Hospital Limerick (centre) with guest speakers Mr Paul Connell, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Professor Dara Kilmartin, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Professor Ian Pearce, St. Paul's Eye Unit, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool, Ms Maedbh Rhatigan, Galway University Hospital, Mr Max Treacy, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Ms Deirdre Townley, University Hospital Galway, Dr Syed Bilal Zaidi, Reg and Dr Patrick Canning, SpR, University Hospital Limerick.

➡ London to present the Annual Mooney Lecture 2025. Prof Dick's lecture is entitled *Evolution of Treatment Regimens for Uveitis*.

The annual European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) Lecture 2025 will be delivered by Dr Sarah Moran, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork on the topic "Management of Cataracts in Patients with

Corneal Pathologies."

The full Annual Conference 2025 programme can be viewed on the ICO website.

Abstract submission:

The closing date for abstract submission is Monday, 31st March 2025.

Please visit www.eyedoctors.ie to access the online abstract submission form link.

Early Bird Registration

Early Bird registration of €350 for ICO members will end on Monday, 31st March 2025

Registration is complimentary for ICO trainees and Life members. Registration fees for doctors enrolled on the ICO CPD Support Scheme are covered by the College through HSE funding support.

Registration is via ICO members portal.

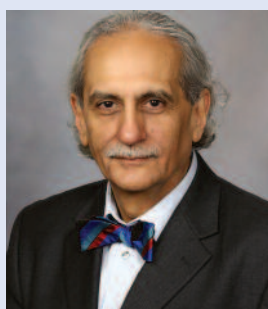
ICO Annual Conference 2025 – Our Guest Speakers

Annual Mooney Lecture 2025



Professor Andrew Dick
Duke Elder Chair & Director of Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London; Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Bristol, UK

General Retina and Genetics



Dr Jose Pulido
Director of the Henry and Corrine Bower Memorial Laboratories for Translational Medicine in the Vickie and Jack Farber Vision Research Center at Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia.

General Retina and Genetics



Miss Miriam Minihan
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London

General Retina and Genetics



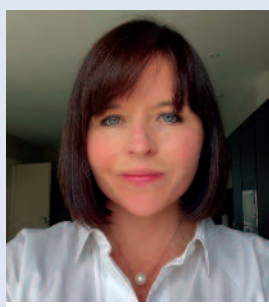
Dr Paul Kenna
Clinical Ophthalmologist; Director of the Ocular Genetics Unit, Trinity College Dublin and Clinical Lecturer in Ophthalmic Genetics, Research Foundation of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Dublin

Neuro-ophthalmology



Ms Áine NiMhéalóid
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon University Hospital Waterford

Neuro-ophthalmology



Ms Lisa McAnena
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

Neuro-ophthalmology



Professor Steffen Hamann
Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Consultant Neuro-Ophthalmologist, Department of Ophthalmology, Rigshospitalet, Denmark

Neuro-ophthalmology



Professor Dan Milea
Head, Neuro-Ophthalmology Department, Rothschild Foundation Hospital, Paris and Head of the Rothschild BRAINLab of Visual and Computational Sciences

Anterior Segment



Mr Leon Au
Consultant Ophthalmologist Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, Manchester

Anterior Segment



Professor Billy Power
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin

Save the Date



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

Eye Care in Focus
CONFERENCE 2025

[@eyedoctorsirl](http://www.eyedoctors.ie)

Wednesday 1st October 2025
The Gibson Hotel, Dublin

One day Clinical Education
Conference for the
Extended Eye Care Team

ICO Annual Conference 2025 – Our Guest Speakers

Anterior Segment



Mr Barry Quill
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon,
Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin

Anterior Segment



Mr Daniel Ezra
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon
Moorfields Eye Hospital, London

Sustainability in Eye Care



Dr Emilie Mahon
RCSI Ophthalmology Tutor,
Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin

Sustainability in Eye Care



Mr Tommy Bracken
Strategic Advisor, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin

Sustainability in Eye Care



Dr Anders Bolmstedt
Chair, Health Care Without Harm Europe

Top Ten Tips



Ms Janice Brady
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon
University Hospital Waterford

Top Ten Tips



Mr Paul O'Brien
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon
Blackrock Clinic, Dublin

Top Ten Tips

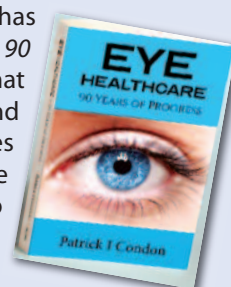


Mr David Wallace
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon
Bon Secours Hospital, Kerry

New Publications

Two wonderful new publications have come to the attention of the College, written by life members, Mr Patrick Condon and Mr John Nolan. We look forward to sharing further details of these books with members while gathered in Kilkenny this year.

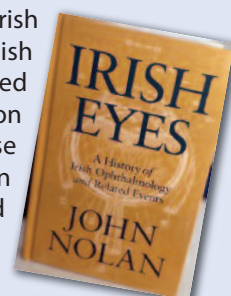
Mr Patrick Condon has authored *Eye Healthcare - 90 Years in Progress*, a book that describes the memoirs and personal experiences encountered during the training and careers of two successive generations of ophthalmic surgeons, from the 1930's to the present day. The book also highlights the major progress in the standard delivery of eye healthcare in Ireland over the years.



Mr John Nolan's book, *Irish Eyes - A History of Irish Ophthalmology and Related Events* is John's reflection on the evolution of eye disease treatments, culminating in today's highly-specialised surgery. It is set against the backdrop of the social and political changes of the time.

We are delighted to learn of these publications, which are undoubtedly excellent additions to the existing records on the history of the specialty in Ireland. Our congratulations to John and Patrick on the fantastic achievement.

We are confident that both members and young ophthalmologists alike will be eager to read the books and show their support.



Top Ten Tips



Ms Nikolina Budimlja
Consultant Ophthalmologist
Institute of Eye Surgery Waterford

Developing Emergency Ophthalmology



Dr Felipe Dhawahir-Scala
Consultant Ophthalmologist and Vitreoretinal Surgeon;
Director of Acute Ophthalmic Services, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital

European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) Lecture 2025



Ms Sarah Moran
Consultant Ophthalmologist
South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork

Dr. Alison Blake – American Academy of Ophthalmology Board Tenure Draws to a Close

As many members will be aware, former ICO President Dr Alison Blake has served on the Board of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) as the international representative for the past four years.

Alison's tenure concluded at the AAO Congress in Chicago last October, where former Academy President Dr Dan Briceland paid special tribute to Alison and her significant impact on behalf of international members of the academy.

Alison was formally invited to join the AAO Board of Trustees in 2020 by Dr. David Parke, CEO of the AAO. This marked a significant moment as she became the first European representative on the board in 12 years. Jan Teejd de Faber was the last representative from Europe to sit on the Academy's board prior to this.

Alison served as one of two international trustees on the 20-person board of trustees and described this role as an unexpected but great honour. She felt privileged to represent the Irish College and Ireland on the Academy's board, reflecting a serious commitment to global integration.

The AAO has its head office in San Francisco and an office in Washington, D.C. The Board expressed their appreciation for Alison's dedication, particularly in travelling to meetings, which she described as an incredibly valuable learning experience, as the

board functions at a very high and effective level.

The AAO Board of Trustees includes the president, public trustees, state and specialty representatives. The academy's board meetings include the committee of secretaries and staff vice presidents. There is also an annual retreat with brainstorming and "blue-sky" thinking sessions. Alison noted that, in her experience, board members warmly welcome and integrate new

trustees and highly appreciate the effort made to participate.

"I would describe this time with the AAO as the best professional experience of my life, and I would like to praise the Board of Trustees and the broader team for their dedication to advancing the field of ophthalmology for the benefit of patients and clinicians."

The ICO would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Alison for her outstanding representation of Irish ophthalmology on the international stage through her service on the AAO Board over the past four years, as well as her enduring commitment to the specialty.



▲
Dr Paul Chan, Professor and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), Dr Alison Blake and Dr Dan Briceland, past President of the AAO (2023) pictured at the AAO Annual Congress in Chicago, October 2024.

◀
Dr Alison Blake (left) and Professor David Keegan (3rd from right), pictured with members of the AAO Global Advisory Committee at the AAO Congress in Chicago, October 2024

Irish Healthcare Awards 2024

Sustainability in Healthcare Award - Optimising Medications' Carbon Footprint in Ophthalmic Care.

Congratulations to Dr Emilie Mahon, Professor Conor Murphy and Professor Debbi Stanistreet, Associate Professor of Public Health at RCSI, who on behalf of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, won the Sustainability in Healthcare Award at the Irish Healthcare Awards 2024 on Wednesday 4 December.

The project entitled 'Optimising Medications' Carbon Footprint in Ophthalmic Care', which was made possible by the support of a research grant from the RVEEH Research Foundation, was selected by the judges and described as a "Great practical example in an acute hospital. This is a thought through project with achievable results and a calculated impact. It is well-described and devised and a nice model for other comparable situations."

Outlining the premise of the project, Dr Emilie McMahon said,

"This topic was tackled as at present, the majority of published data

on the carbon footprint of medications rely on estimates based on medication price, however accurate calculations are required for clinical decisions to be made. It was therefore sought to improve the manner by which the CO2 emissions of medications used in eye care are measured, notably by calculating the carbon footprint of medications' packaging and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Comparisons could thus be made between peri-operative regimens used in cataract surgery, routes of administration of antivirals and varying delivery devices.

Overall, the project's results aim to support the calculation and reduction of CO2 emissions from ophthalmic care in Ireland in line with the HSE net-zero 2050 target."

Dr Mahon gave a presentation on 'Optimising Sustainability in Ophthalmic

Surgical Care' at the ICO Annual Conference in May this year and will present an update on her studies in this area at this year's conference in Kilkenny. Emilie is currently an ophthalmology tutor with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin and is undertaking an MD on the topic of surgical sustainability under the supervision of Professor Conor Murphy and Professor Deborah Stanistreet from the departments of ophthalmology and population health respectively, addressing this topic both from a clinical and public health perspective.

She cultivated her interest in environmental sustainability for health-



care by joining green healthcare communities, receiving postgraduate sustainability education, and delivering lectures in this area.



Dani Hadley, Account Director, Sound to Light, sponsors of the Sustainability in Healthcare Award) Prof Conor Murphy, Ms Cathriona Ennis, Dr Emilie Mahon, Prof Debbi Stanistreet, Associate Professor of Public Health at RCSI, and co-supervisor of the project and Anton Savage, awards ceremony presenter.

The New Maintenance of Professional Competence

From 1 May 2025, a new revised, strengthened and more reflective Maintenance of Professional Competence Framework Model will be introduced. This updated model upholds high standards of professional practice while maintaining self-directed CPD processes that are relevant to each doctor's scope and stage of practice.

The new PCS requirements provide greater flexibility ensuring applicability across diverse medical roles and responsibilities.

Summary of Key Changes

• Engaged vs Not Engaged in the Practice of Medicine:

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

• Mandatory Professional Development Plan (PDP):

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

• The Practice Review Category:

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

• Renamed CPD Categories:

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

• Domains of Good Professional Practice

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

New categories

• Planning CPD (up to 7 credits can be recorded for this activity)

Your Professional Development Plan helps you reflect and plan learning events relevant to your scope and stage of practice. It is now a mandatory requirement and creating a plan attracts 5 CPD credits. The

Medical Council encourages doctors to engage in peer review and also review their plan at the end of every year. In addition, you can claim 1 CPD credit if you have your Plan reviewed by a peer/colleague and 1 CPD credit if you reflect on your plan at the end of the year.

• Practice Review (minimum of 10 credits required)

The Practice Review category includes Clinical or Practice Audit, Quality Improvement and Practice Evaluation projects.

• **Audit:** Reviewing care against criteria to improve standards

• **Quality Improvement:** Implementing interventions for better outcomes.

• **Practice Evaluation:** Assessing your professional performance relating to your stage and scope of practice.

• Work-Based Learning (minimum of 15 credits required)

This category includes activities previously recorded under the Internal category. It involves doctors' reflection of their clinical and non-clinical work. Examples include:

- Grand rounds, Journal clubs, Multi-disciplinary team meetings
- Management, Policy and Committee meetings
- Personal reading or study (journals, textbooks, web journals etc.).
- Research, Publications.
- Teaching, Examining, Mentoring and Supervision.
- In-house education provided by your employer.

• Accredited Continuing Education (CE) (minimum of 20 credits required)

Accredited CE activity includes attendance at relevant educational events, conferences, courses, and workshops at local, national, international level. CE activity must be accredited in Ireland or in the State where it is delivered. Some

examples include:

- Local, Regional, National, International accredited meetings
- Conferences/Seminars/Webinars. Presentations to scientific meetings
- Training Bodies, College, Medical Societies
- Education, Training and Simulation Programmes
- Courses, workshops, seminars, diplomas
- Online learning courses, modules, workshops
- Masterclass series also webcast
- Relevant academic qualification (degree, diploma, course).

Some Learning Activities Relevant to Retired Doctors

- Health and clinical service policy.
- Clinical leadership, management, committee participation.
- Teaching, Examiner, Mentoring, SDR assessment.
- CPD verification.
- Patient incident assessment
- Medico-legal work, Professional Advisor, Voluntary, Others.
- Practice review, audit, quality improvement.

What does it mean to be Engaged in the Practice of Medicine?

Engagement in the practice of medicine by a registered medical practitioner includes any of the following activities:

- Involvement in the act of diagnosing, treating or managing illnesses and medical conditions, including telemedicine consultations.
- Provision of medical advice or education.
- Prescription of medications.
- Performing medical procedures.
- Development of preventative programmes.
- Conducting relevant medical research.
- Taking any other actions which require medical knowledge and skills.

Professional Competence (MPC) Framework

How to meet the new CPD Requirements:

I am Engaged in the Practice of Medicine, what must I do to meet requirements?

The Professional Competence year runs from 1 May to 30 April. During this 12-month period you must:

- Enrol in a Professional Competence Scheme and record CPD activities in your ePortfolio for Professional Competence.
- Engage in and record a minimum of 50 hours of CPD activity per year, made up as follows:
 - Planning CPD – up to 5 CPD credits.
 - Practice Review – minimum 10 CPD credits.
 - Work-based Learning – minimum 15 CPD credits.
 - Accredited Continuing Education – minimum 20 CPD credits.
 - Assign all eight Domains of Good Professional Practice at least once in every 3 years.

I am not Engaged in the Practice of Medicine, what must I do to meet requirements?

The Professional Competence year runs from 1 May to 30 April. During this 12-month period you must:

- Enrol in a Professional Competence Scheme and record CPD activities in your ePortfolio.

- Engage in and record a minimum of 50 hours of CPD activity per year, made up as follows:
 - Planning CPD – up to 5 CPD credits per year.
 - Practice Review/Work-based learning – minimum of 25 CPD credits.
 - Accredited Continuing Education – minimum 20 CPD credits.
 - Assign all eight Domains of Good Professional Practice at least once in every 3 years.

Why is the Medical Council making this change?

The revised Professional Competence Requirements ensure that medical practitioners continuously evolve alongside the healthcare system's demands. By emphasising reflection and outcome-driven learning, the Medical Council aims to make CPD more relevant to daily medical practice, improving both patient care and the practitioner's skill set. CPD credits for practice review and quality improvements, along with the introduction of the 'Engaged' status and reflective practice reinforce the accountability and proactive engagement required for maintaining high standards in medical practice.

Thank you to Thelma Russell, Manager, Professional Competence Department, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland for sharing the information.

A new PCS portal is currently being developed. All Doctors will be required to open a new account on the new portal. The ICO will share further details on the forthcoming changes and the new portal in the coming weeks. The College will be available to help our members in the transition to the new system over the coming months.

Global Health eModule

GP Dr John Morris and his colleagues in ICGP have developed an Introductory eModule based on the Global Health Competency Framework.

This is an excellent resource and provides a comprehensive introduction to global health covering all the core competencies. The ICGP has made all the content available to members of the Forum of Post-graduate Training Bodies.

The interactive digital learning resource explores the concepts and curriculum around Global Health.

This resource should take approximately 50 minutes to complete. Created with subject matter experts, Dr John Morris and Dr Stephen Brennan with help from Dr Ellen Sweeney, it is designed to support your learning on Global Health in placing a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.

A link to the eModule can be accessed via the ICO members portal under the Professional Competence resources.



East Coast Medical Ophthalmologists Meeting

Dr Alison Blake, who chaired the 10th East Coast Medical Ophthalmologists Meeting on Wednesday, 10th February is pictured with Linda Fabian (Thea), guest speaker Ms Lisa McAnena, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mater Hospital and Beaumont Hospital and James Blaney (Thea). Ms McAnena gave a comprehensive talk on "Managing the Pale Optic Disc: Pearls and Pitfalls" to a receptive and enthusiastic audience.

RCSI Charter Day 2025

"Next Generation Surgery"

The RCSI Annual Charter Meeting 2025 took place from Tuesday 4th to Saturday, 8th February in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 123 St Stephen's Green. The theme of the 2025 Charter Meeting was "Next Generation Surgery" to place a spotlight on how to better support early career surgeons within an ever-changing surgical environment.

Parallel sessions on Thursday and Friday spanned various surgical specialties, including a dedicated Ophthalmology session on Friday, 7th February at the Newman Study Room, RCSI.

Mr Edward Dervan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin said it was a pleasure to chair the session of excellent talks ranging from novel clinical entities, surgery and service delivery from early career ophthalmologists.

In his talk "Tube Surgery for Refractory Glaucoma" Mr Rory Murphy, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital highlighted how despite the ever expanding range of devices available for surgical interventions in progressive glaucoma, tube surgery remains an attractive option. In particular, he said, the Paul Glaucoma Implant offers a number of desirable design features leading to predictable and consistent

outcomes for surgeons and their patients.

Mr Nicholas Brennan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Dublin discussed the role of immediate sequential bilateral cataract surgery (ISBCS) in adding value for patients and the hospital. He spoke in more detail on the practicalities of implementing ISBCS, in terms of the actual time, financial and health benefits.

Dr Emer Doolan, Consultant Ophthalmologist at CHO6 & CHO7 and Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, presented an update on the pachyhoroid disease spectrum including advances in imaging, recently described features, diagnostic criteria and management.

A highly engaging session and our thanks to the presenters for their excellent talks and inspiring the next generation of aspiring ophthalmologists.



Mr Rory Murphy, Mr Edward Dervan, Mr Nicholas Brennan and Dr Emer Doolan pictured at the Ophthalmology Session during the RCSI Charter Day event, Friday 7th February 2025.

PCS National

Audit 2024-2025

The end of the current PCS year is Wednesday, April 30th

Professional Competence has two key components:

- 40 x CPD credits in any category (External, Internal, Personal Learning, Research/Teaching)
- 1 x Clinical Practice Audit or Quality Improvement Project

Presuming that the audit or improvement project takes 10 hours, this brings the annual requirements to 50 hours of CPD activity.

ICO National Audit 2024/2025

To assist members in meeting the audit/quality improvement requirement for the PCS, the ICO recently circulated the following National Audit proposals for 2024-2025. The information is also housed on our members portal under the Professional Competence, ICO Audit section. A form has been created on survey monkey, where you will find further details on each proposal and where you can record your results.

1. Patient Review Follow Up Timings

Please select min 50 patients seen in late 2023/early 2024, which were due for review in the intervening period and examine whether all were reviewed within the required timeframe and if not, why not.

You may select a cross section of patients or target an at risk group such as Glaucoma, Wet ARMD or Paeds Amblyopia follow up.

2. Patient Travel & Additional Supports

Please select min 50 consecutive patients and assess their travel arrangements to the clinic and what additional supports were required.

If members have any queries, or need assistance, the College is there to help.

UKISCRS 48th Annual Congress 2024 marking 75th Anniversary of the IOL

On 28th and 29th November 2024 ophthalmologists from all over the world gathered in London at the UKISCRS Annual Meeting to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first intraocular lens implant by Sir Harold Ridley.

A large Irish delegation was present at both the Young Ophthalmologists day and the main meeting. We enjoyed outstanding scientific sessions, a vibrant industry exhibition and time to catch up and share ideas with national and international colleagues. Talks by Mr. John Doris on the ICO view on

training and by Mr. Arthur Cummings on The Good the Pandemic has wrought were very well-received.

The 2025 UKISCRS Annual meeting will be in London on 13th and 14th November.

Mr Tom Flynn, UKISCRS Board member



Mr John Doris, President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists



Mr Tom Flynn, UKISCRS Board member and Mr Arthur Cummings, Wellington Eye Clinic, Dublin, pictured at the UKISCRS Congress with Mr Sandro Di Simplicio, Ms Bitia Manzouri, Mr Milind Pande, Mr Ali Mearza and Mr David Lockington.



ICO Surgical Trainees Dr Robert McGrath, Dr Jay Jun Lee and Dr Liam Burke pictured with Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Ms Nikolina Budimlija at the UKISCRS Congress Meeting in London.



Mr Arthur Cummings, Wellington Eye Clinic, presenting at the UKISCRS Congress.



Mr Tom Flynn, Ms Sorchia ni Dhubhghaill, Dr Alison Blake and Mr Patrick Condon pictured at the UKISCRS 75th anniversary gala dinner at the Tower of London, November 2024

Adare Retinal Meeting

The annual Adare Retinal Meeting took place at the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare in Co Limerick on Thursday, 3rd October 2024. The meeting was coordinated by Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at University Hospital Limerick.

Ophthalmologists from across the country were in attendance at the meeting, now in its 15th consecutive year, to hear the excellent programme of talks.

Professor Ian Pearce, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, St. Paul's Eye Unit, Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool presented a fantastic guest lecture entitled *"Overview of the Geographic Atrophy Treatments; Deuterated Vitamin A Studies, Lumithera Pros / Cons and Pegcetacoplan History and the Plus Side of the Debate"*, providing an insight into his extensive experience of using the new treatments and his thoughts on the new drug Pegcetacoplan which failed to get approval.

Presentations throughout the day were delivered by Professor Dara Kilmartin, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Professor Paul Connell, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Ms Maedbh Rhatigan, University Hospital Galway, Mr Max Treacy, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Ms Deirdre Townley, University Hospital Galway, Dr Patrick Canning, University Hospital Limerick, Dr Syed Bilal Hassen, Zaidi University Hospital Limerick, Dr Emily Greenan, Royal Victoria and Eye and Ear Hospital and Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer.

The topics of focus for the talks included acute macular haemorrhages, vitreoretinal lymphoma, uveitis, endophthalmitis, macular telangiectasia, diabetic retinopathy, central serous chorioretinopathy and what is on the horizon for medical retina.



Dr Mark James and Dr Susan Kelly

Save the Date:

The 2025 Adare Retinal Meeting will be held in the same venue on Thursday, 25th September.



Dr Grace McCabe, Miss Yvonne Delaney, Dr Robert McGrath, Dr Marcus Conway and Dr Simon Neary



Dr Alison Blake, Dr Catherine McCrann, Dr Donald Fernandez and Dr Fiona Kearns



Mr Frank Kinsella and Dr Jarlaith Gallagher

Open Disclosure and HSE National Open Disclosure Programme

On 26 September 2024, the Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023 commenced. This Act provides a legislative framework for mandatory open disclosure in specific, rare, but very serious, circumstances and aims to embed openness and transparency in healthcare settings in Ireland, including in private healthcare.

Additionally, a new national open disclosure framework has been produced that sets out requirements and expectations across all health and social care settings and seeks to ensure a clear and consistent approach to open disclosure in practice.

A number of educational and training resources to support doctors and healthcare professionals with understanding key aspects of the legislation are available via the HSE website www.HSElandD.ie

An information page signposting the available training and educational resources on HSElandD and via the National Patient Safety Office has been added to the ICO members portal.

What is Open Disclosure?

The HSE Open Disclosure Policy defines open disclosure as an open, consistent, compassionate and timely approach to communicating with patients and, where appropriate, their relevant person following patient safety incidents.

It includes:

- expressing regret for what has happened,
- keeping the patient informed and providing reassurance in relation to on-going care and treatment,
- learning about the incident and sharing that learning, and
- the steps being taken by the health services provider to try to prevent a recurrence of the incident. (HSE 2019)

Open disclosure is a discussion and an exchange of information that may take place in one conversation or over one or more meetings.

What are the legislative provisions around 'Open Disclosure'?

On 26 September 2024, the Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023 commenced. This

Act provides a legislative framework for mandatory open disclosure and aims to embed openness and transparency in healthcare settings in Ireland, including in private healthcare.

The Act contains a list of very rare, very serious incidents. These specific notifiable incidents are explicitly bound by legislation in how they are responded to and are subject to mandatory reporting through the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

For more information on NIMS please visit the HIQA website, including specific guidance for health service providers on how to notify HIQA of a notifiable incident under the Patient Safety Act.

The Department of Health has also developed a guidance document to assist stakeholders in understanding the provisions of the Act.

Supports and Training for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals

HSE Open Disclosure e-Learning Modules

Doctors can access information and educational support on open disclosure through the following HSE resource:

HSElandD

There are also two e-Learning modules around Open Disclosure, which can be accessed free of charge on HSElandD.ie

- E-Learning Programme Module 1 – “Communicating Effectively through Open Disclosure”
- E-Learning Programme Module 2 – “Open Disclosure: Applying Principles to Practice”

The HSE has its own open disclosure policy and guidance documents, which correlate to the new national framework and the Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023.

National Patient Safety Office (NPSO) National Open Disclosure Framework

In addition to the legislative requirements for defined notifiable incidents, the National Patient Safety Office (NPSO) of the Department of Health developed The National Open Disclosure Framework.

The Framework seeks to further embed structures for transparency and open communication from all health and social care professionals with patients following a patient safety incident or an adverse event, providing six overarching principles that are expected to be used to underpin open disclosure in practice.

NPSO Webinars

The NPSO facilitates regular webinars on Open Disclosure related topics. You can attend the live webinars without registration, and they are also available to be watched back at your convenience.

The NPSO has also set up a dedicated support email to address all queries related to the new Open Disclosure Framework: opendisclosureframework@health.gov.ie

Download Flyer

For further information on training, and mandatory training requirements please visit the open disclosure webpage www.hse.ie/opendisclosure

HE

Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023

Training Available
The Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023 has now commenced. Training available to support you with understanding key aspects of the Act include:

An Overview of the Patient Safety (Notifiable Incidents and Open Disclosure) Act 2023
Available on HSElandD
This module, aimed at all staff working in health and social care services, provides you with an overview of the main provisions of the Patient Safety Act, and legislative requirements.
Accredited: 3 CEUs NMBI/3 external CPD points RCPI

The Role of the Designated Person in Incident Management and Open Disclosure
Available on HSElandD
This module is aimed at learners who currently undertake the role of Designated Person and those who may fulfil the role in the future.
Accredited: 2 CEUs NMBI/2 external CPD points RCPI

Open Disclosure Face to Face Skills Workshop
This 3 hour workshop focuses on the management of the open disclosure process, and is mandatory for all those involved in the open disclosure process. Contact your open disclosure lead for further information.
Accredited: 3 CEUs NMBI/3 external CPD points RCPI

For further information on training, and mandatory training requirements please visit the open disclosure webpage www.hse.ie/opendisclosure.

IBWEC 2025 – Oberstdorf, Bavaria

2025 marked the 6th anniversary of the Irish Bavarian Winter Eye Club and the 4th successful meeting. The meeting took place from the 15th-18th January.

This year's meeting was the best ever, with 19 Irish delegates and a similar number on the German side, many travelling from Munich and even Berlin.

The venue was the beautiful Park Hotel Frank in Oberstdorf. The conference centre provided a fantastic forum for great talks on a wide variety of topics, with speakers from Ireland, England, Germany and Switzerland followed by robust discussions.

Sessions were held over 3 days, with 1hr sessions in the mornings and 3hr sessions in the evenings. There was a great collegiate atmosphere and during the day ample opportunities to enjoy Oberstdorf's many attractions.

We look forward to next year's meeting to be held from 14-18 January 2026.

Mr Gareth Higgins, University Hospital Waterford, IBWEC Organising Committee



Mr Tim Fulcher and Mr Richard Comer



A series of presentations, in the form of short talks followed by interactive Q&A sessions took place in the morning and evening time throughout the 3 day meeting.



Dr Bobby Tang, Dr Alison Greene, Dr Robert McGrath, Dr Esraa Hegazy and Ms Clare McCloskey



Mr Gareth Higgins and Mr Edward Dervan, IBWEC Organising Committee members.



Delegates pictured at the IBWEC 2025 which took place in Oberstdorf, Bavaria from the 15th - 18th January.