



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

# ***ICO Winter Meeting*** **2015**

***“Minimising the Risk of  
Malpractice Litigation”***

**COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS**  
**22 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.**

***Friday, December 11th, 2015***

Kindly supported by

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# PROGRAMME

**8.30am Registration**

**8.45am Business Case Preparation Workshop.**

*"At first I was blind but now I can see"*

**This one-hour workshop will open with tips on how to productively negotiate and how to write a business case within the context of the Irish health service.**

Mr John Doris, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon,  
University Hospital Waterford

**9.45am NCBI Services**

**Overview from NCBI on the services it provides to patients who are vision impaired to maximise their functional vision and provide support.**

Gerard Byrne,  
NCBI Regional Manager with responsibility for services in south and west Dublin

**10.00am Coffee**

**10.15am Minimising Malpractice Risk**

*The focus of discussions during this session will be on minimising the risk of malpractice action and providing practical guidance on the correct process of obtaining patient consent, the practicalities of practicing an open disclosure policy and how to avoid subsequent difficulties or challenges.*

**ICO President's Welcome Address**

Mr William Power

**Chair: Miss Pat McGettrick**

ICO Ethics and Standards Committee

**Speakers:**

**Dr Patricia Quinlan,**

**Chair ICO Ethics & Standards Committee**

ICO and Informed Consent – informing patients, protecting doctors

**Angela Tysall,  
HSE Lead for Open Disclosure**

What is Open Disclosure process and how it will work in practice

**Professor A.E. (Freddie) Wood,  
President, Irish Medical Council**

Advice for doctors on how to avoid coming before the Medical Council in a Fitness-to-Practice scenario

**Asim A. Sheikh, Barrister at law**

Practical advice on the consent process

**12.15pm Lunch**

**1.30pm Royal Academy of Medicine Ophthalmic Section Winter Meeting**

**Annual Montgomery Lecture 2015 – RCSI**

**6.00pm Drinks & Canapes in the RCSI Concourse**

**6.30pm Montgomery Lecture  
Prof. dr. Marie-José Tassignon,  
Professor of Ophthalmology,  
Antwerp University Belgium**

Lecture Title – "One Design with Multiple Derivations"

Cheyne Lecture Theatre, RCSI

*In the presence of Declan Magee,  
President, Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland*

# Welcome message from ICO President



Dear Colleagues and Guests,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to the inaugural ICO Winter Meeting. The ICO is extremely grateful to our members and guest speakers for your willingness to participate in today's discussions on malpractice and to share your knowledge and expertise on the positive steps we can take to minimise the risk.

The cost and frequency of claims are significantly higher in Ireland than in many other comparable health systems. As highlighted in the Medical Council report reviewing 5-years of claims, the majority of complaints to the Council are not as a result of poor clinical decision making but because of communication and transparency failures.

The ICO believes the focus must be on supporting patients and doctors and on learning from adverse events to improve patient safety. The ICO also support the exploration of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms so that claims can be resolved without the need to go to court.

The ICO has been proactively engaging with relevant parties in order to address the unsustainable rises in medical indemnity rates for practitioners, as well as examining our internal protocols and guidelines to encourage greater transparency and protection for both the patient and doctor.

The College will continue to focus on measures for our members aimed at helping to reduce the frequency of claims, including the development of informed consent patient forms and information literature on open disclosure as well as the standards and recommendations which are outlined by the ICO in the Medical Advertising in Ireland Report.

Thank you again for your participation in this essential discussion.

With Best Wishes,

**Mr William Power**

*President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists*

## BIOGRAPHIES



*Ms Angela Tysall*

### **Ms Angela Tysall, HSE Lead for Open Disclosure**

Ms Angela Tysall is Project Manager in the Office of Patient and Staff Engagement which is part of the HSE Quality and Patient Safety Division.

Her main role is that of National Lead in Open Disclosure for the HSE. She also works as a complaints review officer for the HSE and undertakes investigations including serious incident investigations; trust in care and dignity at work investigations.

Angela has 13 years' experience as a midwife; 2 years as a practice nurse; and 5 years as a senior sister, team leader and acting manager of a nurse lead NHS walk-in-centre.

She also has 6 years management experience in a GP Out-of-Hours service in the north west of Ireland and achieving quality assurance accreditation for this service.



*Prof. A.E. (Freddie)  
Wood*

### **Professor A.E. (Freddie) Wood, Medical Council President**

A cardiothoracic surgeon, Professor A.E. (Freddie) Wood graduated from UCD before completing postgraduate training with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

In 1985, he pioneered heart transplantation with the late Maurice Neligan in addition to complex congenital heart surgery and reparative valve surgery. In 1993 he set up the National Homograft Valve Bank. From 1999 to 2010 he served as Director of Heart & Lung Transplantation at the Mater Hospital and was pivotal in setting up the Lung Transplantation Programme in 2001 culminating in successful lung transplantation in 2005. He began the Artificial Heart Programme in 2005 and laid the foundation for the successful introduction of ECLS (extracorporeal life support) / ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) in Our Lady's Children's Hospital and the Mater Hospital.

In the last ten years, he has concentrated on research and he and his collaborative group have been successful in obtaining €500,000.00 in funding both from the HRB and SFI. During that time, he supervised three MD's, one surgical PhD and three science PhD's and has some 90 peer reviewed publications.

Prof. Wood has a long standing interest in postgraduate training and is a past member of the Intercollegiate Board in Cardiothoracic Surgery. He was a member of Council of the RSCI from 2000-2014 and was appointed Special Advisor to the Council on Governance in 2006 and subsequently became first Chairman of Governance in 2008.

In April 2011, he was appointed Consultant Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon in Congenital Heart Disease to the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast to direct, manage, mentor and provide surgery whilst solution for its provision is being finalised.

## BIOGRAPHIES



Asim A. Sheikh

### **Asim A. Sheikh, BA, LLM**

**Barrister-at-Law and Lecturer, UCD School of Medicine**

Asim A. Sheikh is a practising Barrister, specialising in clinical negligence and medical law. He is also a CEDR Accredited Mediator.

He joined Forensic and Legal Medicine, University College Dublin in 1997 and is currently part-time Lecturer in Legal Medicine. He is course co-ordinator of and lectures on the Graduate Diploma and MSc in Healthcare (Risk Management & Quality).

He lectured on the Legal & Ethical Aspects of Healthcare, MBA in Health Services Management, at the Michael Smurfit School of Business, University College Dublin. He is organiser of Training Course and Courtroom Skills for Medical Experts in UCD and occasionally lectures on Healthcare Ethics and Law at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and Medical Law elective at the Law Society of Ireland.

He has a specialist interest in the area of genetics & law. He has published in this area on the topics of human cloning, gene patents and genetic research.

Asim is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Bioethics, European Association of Healthcare Law and World Association of Medical Law. He is also a member of the Ethical, Legal and Societal Issues Working group for GeneLibrary Ireland, a Member of the HIQA Advisory Group on the Autonomy Guidance Project, and is Editor of the Medico-Legal Journal of Ireland.



Patricia Quinlan

### **Patricia Quinlan**

**Chair ICO Ethics & Standards Committee**

Patricia Quinlan is Honorary Secretary of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists and Chairperson of the ICO Ethics and Professional Standards Committee.

Patricia is a Medical Ophthalmologist practicing in Blackrock Clinic Dublin, with a special interest in Retinal Vascular Disease.

She completed her Basic Ophthalmology Training in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

She completed a 2 year fellowship at the Wilmer Retinal Vascular Centre, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.

She then worked on staff in the Wilmer Retinal Vascular Centre as a medical retinal specialist for a further two years before returning to Ireland in 1990.

## BIOGRAPHIES



Pat McGettrick

### Pat McGettrick

FRCSI, FRCOphth, FRCSEd

Pat McGettrick is a member of the Ethics and Professional Standards Committee of ICO and has a special interest in the clinical and legal aspects of Informed Consent and Open Disclosure, following on from her time as a student of Healthcare Ethics and Law at RCSI.

She convened the first of the ICO seminars on legal aspects of healthcare held during the Annual Conference of ICO in 2015.

She is in clinical practice as a Consultant Ophthalmologist at HSE Midlands and as one of the programme ophthalmologists for National Diabetic Retinopathy Screening.



John Doris

### John Doris

MB BCh BAO MRCP FRCOphth

John Doris is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at University Hospital Waterford.

He graduated in medicine from Queens University Belfast in 1998. He trained as a medical physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast for two years and received a membership of the Royal College of Physicians in 2001.

He completed his basic ophthalmic surgical training at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and his higher ophthalmic surgical training in Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. He undertook three additional years of specialist Vitreoretinal surgical fellowship training at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, Southampton University Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital, London.

He has been a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon with special interest in Vitreoretinal surgery at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in Dublin and the Royal Liverpool University Hospital before his appointment at University Hospital Waterford.

He has an interest in Healthcare management in the Irish setting and is a graduate of healthcare Management Practice at UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School.

## NCBI

NCBI is the national sight loss organisation. NCBI is a not-for-profit organisation which provides information, advice, support, rehabilitation services and other training designed to assist people who are living with sight loss to do so independently. Services offered by NCBI include rehabilitation training, independent living skills, mobility training, low vision solutions, IT training, guidance in choosing a range of assistive technology, employment advice and counselling.

There is a form specifically for ophthalmologists which will ask you for all of the relevant details of your patient. When you submit the form we will then make contact with the person to discuss any difficulties they may be having and how NCBI can help. Go to [www.ncbi.ie](http://www.ncbi.ie).

NCBI assesses a person's functional vision, looking at the impact of their vision loss and what they can no longer do as a result. Two people with the same level of sight loss may cope with it in very different ways so please refer anyone for whom sight loss is impacting on their daily lives to the point where they can no longer drive, read and are finding it difficult to get out and about independently. NCBI works with children and adults.

## ANNUAL MONTGOMERY LECTURER 2015



*Prof. dr. Marie-José  
Tassignon*

### **Prof. dr. Marie-José Tassignon**

Prof dr. Marie-José Tassignon is Professor of Ophthalmology at Antwerp University Belgium, Faculty of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Antwerp University Hospital since 1991. She held the position of Medical Director of the Antwerp University Hospital for 8 years until October this year.

An ophthalmic surgeon since 1985, Prof dr. Tassignon initially trained in vitreo-retinal surgery and retinal detachment. She moved to the anterior segment of the eye in 1992 and focussed on cataract and corneal surgery but remained active in vitreo-retinal surgery.

Professor dr. Tassignon is involved at the board level for many national and international ophthalmological societies. She has dedicated much of her research activities in the area of cataract surgery, where she developed the innovative bag-in-the-lens implantation technique to avoid the development of the so-called secondary cataract, the main complication of the traditional lens-in-the-bag implantation technique.

She is author of 7 patents; inventions related with cataract surgery and developed ophthalmic instruments in collaboration with the industry.

Professor dr. Tassignon has received many awards, including the ESCRS Binkhorst medal in 2011, the Peter Eustace medal 2015 and the award for best paper of cataract session "Challenging cases" during the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (San Diego): Advanced cases of Bag-in-the-Lens implantation using bean shaped rings in or out of the capsular bag. She has been elected the Tadeusz Krwawicz Gold medal recipient at WOC 2016.



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