



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

# Newsletter

ISSUE 23

SPRING 2019

## Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Snowdrops and daffodils are reminders that spring is upon us, and the first meeting of the new century of the ICO, a joint



meeting of our Society with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, took place in Dublin on the 8th February. A popular session based on cases, the speakers hailed from all corners of both islands and the concept will continue with next spring's meeting planned for Belfast.

A special word of thanks to Louis Collum who so willingly stepped in at a moments notice to cover the corneal section. He went well beyond 'audience participation', thank you Louis!

The abstract request for our long established Annual Conference has already gone to you all and the meeting will take place in the Galway Bay Hotel from the 15th – 17th May. Symposia on Paediatrics, Nutrition and ARMD, Ocular Emergencies and Cataract Service will feature on this year's programme, with stimulating and provocative speakers leading the discussions.

The College is delighted to have our new online membership portal in operation, and appreciate all the positive feedback from members in terms of ease of use and efficiency. The College staff is here to help should any member have a query or need assistance.

With Best Wishes,  
DR ALISON BLAKE

## ICO / RCOphth Joint Meeting

**O**n Friday 8th February, the ICO hosted a joint meeting with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists on the topic of "Life and Sight Threatening Conditions in Ophthalmology". The meeting took place at the Education and Learning Centre at the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital.

The ICO welcomed experts from home and the UK to the session, who each focused on a sub specialty of ophthalmology for discussion. The presentations included case examples,

with an emphasis on the importance of the first visit to the outcome.

Mr Mike Burdon, President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, and

*Continued on page 2* ➔



'Life and Sight Threatening Conditions in Ophthalmology' – ICO President Alison Blake is pictured with Mr Mike Burdon, Consultant Neuro-Ophthalmologist, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham & President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London, at a Joint Meeting of the Colleges which took place on Friday, February 8th at the Education and Conference Centre, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.



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If you would like to make any suggestions for future issues of the College Newsletter please contact  
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Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, gave a presentation on neuro-ophthalmology, always of great interest to all Ophthalmologists, he discussed pituitary apoplexy.

Mr Alan Mulvihill, who trained at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and is now Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion and at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, gave a talk entitled “a lump and a bump” the importance of biopsy in orbital “lumps” and the subtle nature of trapdoor fracture after a “bump”.

Dr Evelyn O’Neill, Aspire Fellow, Department of Ophthalmology, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital spoke on retrolubar haemorrhage and its urgent release.

Miss Julie Silvestri, Department of Ophthalmology, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast (BHSCT) – always a popular visitor to Dublin described Lyme disease and vitritis due to “worms”!

Professor Stephen Kaye fell victim to the weather so at the shortest notice, Professor Louis Collum reminded us all of the variety within keratoconjunctivitis Sicca and its links to systemic disease. Our sincere thanks to Louis for his impromptu contribution.

The meeting was very well attended and was popular with the audience who had plenty of time to ask questions during an excellent parallel session of the RCSI 2019 Charter Day meeting.



Keynote speakers Dr Evelyn O’Neill, Aspire Fellow, Dept. of Ophthalmology, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Mr Alan Mulvihill, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion and at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh and Miss Julie Silvestri, Department of Ophthalmology, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast.



Alison Blake, Pat McGettrick, David Keegan and Patricia Quinlan



Marie Hickey Dwyer and Yvonne Delaney



Stephen Farrell and Gerry Fahy



Patrick Condon and Louis Collum



*Katherina Tobin, Sacha Hutchinson and Dharm Pandeya*



*Pat Logan and Iryna Surzhenko*



*Robert Brady, Christine Bourke and David Gildea*



*Frank Phelan, Peter MacManus and Patrick Condon*



*Miss Julie Silvestri, Alison Bake, Mr Alan Mulvihill and Evelyn O'Neill*



*Maureen Hillery and Catherine McCrann*

# ICO Micro-surgical Simulation Skills Courses in Phaco and Anterior Vitrectomy

**O**n January 28th and 29th, the Irish College of Ophthalmologists held two new high level, intensive courses on phacoemulsification and anterior vitrectomy skills at the new surgical simulation laboratories located at the National Clinical and Surgical Training Suite in the RCSI at 26 York Street.

The introduction of the courses marked an important step up in postgraduate ophthalmic training in Ireland, and represented the first time a dedicated surgical simulation-based course in phacoemulsification and anterior vitrectomy skills has been facilitated here in Ireland.

The courses signify a considerable investment and commitment by the ICO in ensuring trainees have access to the very latest in micro-surgical skills training and simulation learning through the utilisation of the state-of-the-art facilities now available in Ireland at the new RCSI unit.

A successful application for development funding for this training initiative was made by the ICO to the HSE National Doctors Training Programme without which the training courses could not have taken place.

The aim of the phacoemulsification course, designed for Year 1 specialty trainees in ophthalmic surgery, was centred on the instruction of basic principles of phacoemulsification surgery. The learning objectives included an understanding of each step of phacoemulsification surgery as well



*Caroline Baily, Mr Larry Benjamin, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Chair of the Education Committee, Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London, and Yvonne Delaney are pictured at the ICO Micro-surgical skills course in anterior vitrectomy on Tuesday, January 29 at the new surgical simulation laboratories, RCSI 26 York Street.*

as the performance of all procedural steps in a simulated environment with the use of simulated eyes especially designed for dry laboratory surgical training but with the use of phacoemulsification machines and instruments and microscopes as per 'real life'. Special technical skills stations

were dedicated to corneal suturing, ACCC retrieval or the 'Little technique' and IOL implantation.

The anterior vitrectomy course, designed for Year 3 specialty trainees in ophthalmic surgery, focused on the instruction of the basic principles of anterior vitrectomy in the setting of complicated phacoemulsification surgery. The acquisition of these skills in the last year of basic surgical training and prior to entering higher surgical training is essential. The learning objectives of the course included an understanding as well as the performance in a simulated environment of all procedural steps of anterior vitrectomy. The ICO were delighted to welcome Mr Larry Benjamin, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Chair of the Education Committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London who provided excellent didactic teaching on anterior vitrectomy techniques and dealing with complications in cataract surgery. His clear content as well as his calm and measured style were an essential component of the day





course. M.E.D Surgical also kindly supplied a Zeiss operating microscope for use in the simulated operating theatre without which the OR simulations would not have been possible.

The College would like to sincerely acknowledge the invaluable contribution from the course facilitators Patrick Talty, Barry Quill, Caroline Bailey, and Princeton Lee for their time and training expertise during the two days as well as Roderick Mandani, theatre nurse at the RVEEH for his invaluable onsite training and assistance over the two days. The College also wish to thank and acknowledge the enormous work of ICO Dean Yvonne Delaney for her coordination and direction of the courses over the two days. Dara O’Keeffe, head of surgical simulation and all the simulation team at the RCSI also provided invaluable support to the College especially in the preparation stages of both courses.

especially in the simulation scenarios, which took place in the operating theatre in the afternoon.

The ICO would like to thank Alcon for the supply of their phacoemulsification machines as well as the relevant consumables, OVDs, lenses and microscopes over the two days of

training. We also wish to thank John Bannon for the supply of all surgical instruments used over the two courses. We are also grateful to Rayner and Hoya who both supplied intraocular lenses for the IOL stations and additional to Rayner for the generous supply of OVDs for use on both days of the

The operation and success of the courses could not have been achieved without the involvement and assistance from all parties mentioned.



ICO Dean, Yvonne Delaney, is pictured with course facilitators, Caroline Baily and Princeton Lee, Mr Larry Benjamin, Consultant Ophthalmologist and ex-Chair of the Education Committee at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, London and surgical trainees at the Micro-surgical Simulation Skills Course in Phacoemulsification and Anterior Vitrectomy.

# 10th Annual Congress on Controversies in Ophthalmology: Europe (COPHy EU)

**The 10th Annual Congress on Controversies in Ophthalmology Europe (COPHy EU) will take place from the 4th – 6th April at the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road in Dublin.**

The Congress will be devoted to evidence-based debates and discussions amongst session moderators, speakers and the audience, all of whom will examine and analyse the most relevant and controversial issues raised during the course of 2018 and 2019 within the field of ophthalmology.

This educational Congress will continue to focus on anterior segment,

glaucoma, and retina, and will discuss controversies in other areas of ophthalmology, such as neuro-ophthalmology, ocular imaging, and uveitis.

Topics will include the treatment of retinal diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetic macular edema, the role of anti-VEGF agents versus panretinal photocoagulation in the management of proliferative

diabetic retinopathy, polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy, pathologic myopia, the current management of corneal diseases with the use of advanced technologies for corneal transplants, advances in ophthalmic imaging as well as novel medical and surgical glaucoma issues.



A special reduced rate for full registration by ICO member is available and an email with the code to avail of this has been circulated to members. Please register through the COPHy website or contact the ICO office if you have any queries.

Support funding is available for ICO trainees and doctors registered on the CPD SS. If you wish to attend, please register through the ICO membership portal and the College will contact with you directly.

## RCSI Leadership Medal Awarded to Dr Kate Coleman



**The ICO warmly congratulate Kate Coleman, consultant ophthalmic surgeon and founder of Right to Sight, who was awarded a Leadership Medal by Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in honour of her work to eliminate preventable blindness globally. The award was presented to Kate by Prof Cathal Kelly, RCSI Chief Executive at the RCSI Leadership Medal Presentation ceremony, which took place on December 18th last.**

Kate founded Right to Sight in January 2006 and the social enterprise set about developing a sustainable model to deliver training to African surgeons and support staff, and equipping hospitals and eye care centres with appropriate equipment. Partnering with an Indian system called Aravind, Right to Sight led translational research and adapted models suitable for each country. Right to Sight now has 31 programmes in eight African countries.

Kate continues her work today adapting cutting edge technology in the quest to tackle global sight threatening conditions. She is founder, CEO and inventor of IKEY, a patented technology initially developed to screen for needless glaucoma blindness in Africa, while also serving to safeguard children under 16 from access to the Internet and cyber abuse.

# ICO Annual Conference 2019 - Galway

**This year's Irish College of Ophthalmologists annual meeting will take place from Wednesday to Friday 15th to 17th May at the Galway Bay Hotel. The main symposia topics for this year's meeting will be Nutrition and ARMD, Ocular Emergencies, a Review of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Lean Thinking in a Quality High Volume Cataract Service.**

The Scientific Committee have compiled an interesting list of international speakers who will join our own experts at the symposia.

Professor Chris Lloyd, Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmic Surgeon, Great Ormond Street.

Miss Seema Verma, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, London and a founding member and President of the British Emergency Eye Care Society (BEECS). In 2001 Seema was appointed a consultant at Moorfields Eye Hospital and became the first ophthalmologist in the UK to lead an ophthalmic A&E department. She continues to champion acute ophthalmology as a sub-specialty by teaching and organising courses nationally and internationally.

Mr Paul Chell, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Worcester Royal Hospital and Managing Director of Ophthalmologica Consulting. Paul is highly experienced in creating novel patient pathways and efficient care to increase both efficiency and the patient experience.

Miss Monique Hope Ross, Honorary Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre and Good Hope Hospital, and an honorary senior Clinical Lecturer at Birmingham University.

Dr Arjuna Ratanayaka, Lecturer in Vision Sciences, University Southampton. His group at the University investigates the molecular mechanisms underlying degenerative pathologies in the senescent retina and brain; leading to conditions such as Age-related Macular degeneration (AMD), retinal dystrophies and Alzheimer's disease (AD).

Claire Hartnett will present this year's European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) Lecture on the topic of 'Retinopathy of Prematurity'. The Lecture will include a focus on anti VEGF versus laser treatment for ROP, the benefits and contraindications of each treatment and emerging research.

A call for papers had been announced on the 22nd January 2019 with closing date on 25th March 2019. We look forward to learning about members clinical and scientific achievements throughout the year.

## **There will be prizes in three categories at this year's conference:**

1. William Wilde Medal - Best Poster
2. Barbara Knox Medal - Best Clinical Paper
3. John Blake Medal - Best Laboratory Research Paper

The best three posters will be presented on the Thursday afternoon. The judges will make a decision on the

best posters by the end of Conference on Wednesday with the chosen three marked with a Rosette.

The College is introducing a new medal, the John Blake Medal, this year for the best Laboratory Science-based research paper kindly provided by the Blake family in honour and memory of Mr. John Blake, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon.

The first ICO Crowd Audit "Vision Assessment tools" will be presented on the Friday afternoon.

On Thursday, we invite you to attend "Round Table discussions". We will discuss best treatment options in groups of around 10 with roving expert advice.

We hope everyone will join us later that evening for some dinner and music entertainment. This year we will be hosting a more relaxed and informal gathering at the Galway Bay Hotel, and will be hoping for good weather to allow perhaps for dining al fresco!

There will also be the usual sporting events on the three-day programme including the 5 Km run and golf.

On behalf of our President Alison Blake, we look forward to seeing you all.

JOHN DORIS,  
*Chair of the Scientific Committee.*



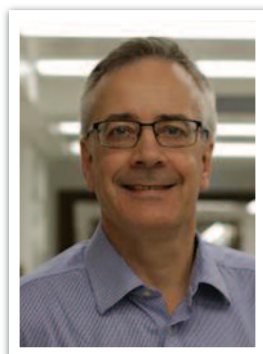
Mr Paul Chell Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Worcester Royal Hospital and Managing Director of Ophthalmologica Consulting



Miss Monique Hope-Ross, Honorary Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre and Good Hope Hospital



Dr J. Arjuna Ratanayaka, Lecturer in Vision Sciences, University of Southampton



Professor Chris Lloyd, Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London



Miss Seema Verma, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, London and a founding member and President of the British Emergency Eye Care Society (BEECS).

# New Online ICO Membership Portal

**The new ICO online membership portal went live in January. We hope members are becoming accustomed to the new system and finding it a faster and more efficient way to register for ICO events and keep up to date with College news and announcements.**

The overarching aim of the new system is to help us manage College activities and to provide members with the most efficient services relevant to their requirements. The system will be the core method of digital communication by the College with our members going forward and the central system for event registration and membership management services.

Many members have now updated their personal profiles on the portal and are actively using the facility to register for events and log membership activities.

Attached with this newsletter edition is a FAQ guide to assist members with queries they may have on navigating the site.

The College staff will of course continue to be available to assist members if they have any queries with the system. Members can contact the office directly or email communications manager Ciara Keenan at [ciara.keenan@eyedoctors.ie](mailto:ciara.keenan@eyedoctors.ie)



## iConnect - New Monthly Teaching Programme, RVEEH

**On January 17, the first of a new monthly talk series entitled 'iConnect' took place at The Learning Centre, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. The talk series, chaired by Dara Kilmartin, Consultant Vitreo Retinal Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, examines the eye in systemic disease and facilitates clinically case focused joint lectures between an ophthalmologist and physician with overlapping and complementary features.**

The aim of the iConnect series is to promote the integration of eye assessment into systemic disease management and is for both ophthalmologists and physicians in training.

The first lecture on January 17th discussed 'The Eye and Immunology: normal barriers and disease modulators' and was presented by Dara Kilmartin and Prof Douglas Veale, Director of Translational Research, DAMC/ Consultant Rheumatologist, St Vincent's.

On March 21st, a joint lecture on 'The Eye and Thyroid Disease' will be presented by Rizwana Khan, Orbital & Oculoplastics Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Professor Donal O'Shea, Consultant Endocrinologist, St Vincent's University Hospital.

This will be followed with the iConnect series on April 4th with a talk from Aine Ni Mhealoid, SpR of Ophthalmology, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital on "Vision-Related and Health-Related Quality of Life in Patients with Giant Cell Arteritis" and

from Dr Richard Conway, Consultant Rheumatologist, Blackrock Clinic, St James's Hospital on "What's new (and old) in GCA"

The iConnect monthly series will continue throughout the year with a focus on the following systemic conditions and the eye; diabetes, vascular disorders, oncology, thyroid eye disease, genetic disorders, multiple sclerosis and neurological disorders, sarcoidosis and respiratory disorders, and dermatology.

The lectures are video conferenced, starting at 5pm with clinical cases and 5.30pm main speakers. ICO members can log on through the new ICO membership portal. We ask members to ensure they register for the meetings through the new online system, whether you are attending in person at the RVEEH, or plan to join by video conference at your teaching unit or remotely.

The link for video conferencing and live streaming will be sent to those who register for the meeting the day before the session.

**iConnect Series:**  
21st March &  
4th April  
RVEEH, Dublin

**RAMI Ophthalmic Section Spring Meeting:**  
29th March -  
Fota Island Hotel and Resort, Cork

**COPHy-EU**  
4th-6th April - Clayton Hotel,  
Burlington Road, Dublin

**ICO Annual Conference**  
15th-17th May -  
Galway Bay Hotel

**SOE 2019**  
13th-16th June - Nice

**New Frontiers in Ophthalmology Conference 2019**  
20th June - Royal Victoria Eye and  
Ear Hospital, Dublin

**19th EURETINA Congress**  
5th-8th September - Paris

**VISION 2020**  
13th International Low Vision  
Research & Rehabilitation  
Congress  
12th-15th July -  
The Convention Centre, Dublin

