



Irish College of
Ophthalmologists
Eye Doctors of Ireland
Protecting your Vision

ICO

Annual Report

2023

Protecting, Promoting and
Preserving Eye Care Standards
in Ireland



ICO MISSION

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists is committed to the advancement and improvement of eye health and patient safety and works to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards in the delivery of eye care

This Annual Report describes the performance and key operations of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO) during 2023.

CONTENTS:

President's Message	3
Chief Executive's Message	4
About the ICO	5
Directors' Report	6
Our Board	6
Governance	7
ICO core activities	8
1. Specialty Training in Ophthalmology	8
2. Continuing Medical Education	12
3. Professional Competence Scheme	13
4. National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology	15
5. Advocacy	16
6. Bursary Programme	18
Legal and Administrative Information	19
Appendix 1	
Financial Reports	20
Directors' Report	21
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities	22
Independent Auditor's Report	23
Statement of Financial Activities	27
Balance Sheet	28
Statement of Cash Flows	29
Notes to the Financial Statements	30

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN DORIS

2023 was a year of continued improvements within Irish Ophthalmology, where collaboration was a key feature of our work.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of all our College members in delivering high quality eye care and their commitment to teaching. Since emerging from the pandemic, there has been a surge in demand for all our services. Both public and private practice has felt the strain but risen to the challenge.

There are very significant increases in demand still to come. The census population data of Ireland recorded 4.6 million in 2011, 5.3 million in 2023, and it is expected to hit 5.6 million by 2030. However, the population increase is more rapid in the over 65 age group with 535,393 recorded in 2011, 806,300 in 2023 and an expected increase to 1 million by 2023. Through the support of the national clinical programme, the College is in a good position to react to the training demands but there is need for more resources.

We have increased our Surgical and Medical Ophthalmology intake significantly. We are targeting a 30% increase at the very least. We need to continue to raise the profile of Ophthalmology and encourage medical students to consider what we know is a very rewarding career.

The first cohort of our new grade of Medical Ophthalmologists exited the training programme in 2023. As a testimony to the quality of our new graduates, they have successfully secured prestigious international fellowships. This did not happen in a vacuum and the College would like to recognise the hard work and time set aside by our trainers across the country.

The integrated eye care model is also taking shape and there has been an expansion in Consultant Medical Ophthalmology posts. However, the College recognises the need for better collaboration between all stakeholders in primary

care and hospitals to coordinate the transition of care into the community. It is a priority of the College to advocate for a national Ophthalmology digital record system and national audit standards for Ophthalmology.

In 2023, the ICO also reached out to our Irish eye care charities. In particular, we have supported "Vision Ireland" in its mission for better access to Eye Clinic Liaison Officers in all major population areas in Ireland.

I would also like to acknowledge the development of the ICO's web portal and highlight its importance into the future as a resource for members' shared health improvement initiatives and sustainability projects.

Finally, I would like to thank the ICO board members and those who serve on our various subcommittees. It is great to see the energy, commitment and vision each member brings to the table.

I would like to extend special thanks to Siobhan Kelly and ICO team.

We have proven that we are better working together.

John Doris

**President,
Irish College of Ophthalmologists**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

SIOBHAN KELLY

It is my pleasure to present the ICO annual report for 2023.

As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that the landscape of ophthalmology training and practice continues to be shaped by both challenges and ongoing developments in service delivery. The gap between capacity and demand in our healthcare system, the evolving demands of medical practice, and the continuing pursuit of excellence are ever-present and remain an ongoing focus for the College and its members. Amidst these challenges, there is much resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment in the ophthalmology community.

The College, which is nestled at the intersection of education, professional development, and charitable service, remains steadfast in our mission to deliver the excellence in training and to support practice in ophthalmology in Ireland.

As a training and professional body, we play a pivotal role in shaping the future of ophthalmic care in our nation. Through rigorous training

programmes, ongoing education initiatives, and advocacy efforts, we empower our members to deliver the highest standard of care.

Looking ahead, we can continue to be optimistic about the College and the profession. Together, we will continue to push the boundaries of innovation, embrace emerging technologies, and champion patient-centric care.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Sincerely,

Siobhan Kelly
CEO, Irish College of Ophthalmologists

ABOUT THE ICO – who we are

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO) is the training and professional body for eye doctors in Ireland.

The ICO is committed to the advancement and improvement of eye health and works to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards in the delivery of eye care and ophthalmic training.

The delivery of healthcare requires a lifelong commitment to learning. The ICO's goal is to provide and support education and learning for ophthalmologists in training, in practice and those who work alongside them as they deliver care to patients.

OUR ROLE:

1. TRAINING

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists is formally assessed and accredited by the Irish Medical Council. The accreditation by the Medical Council, for a period of five years, is under section 89(3)(a)(ii) of the Medical Practitioners Act and approves the College as the body which may grant evidence of the satisfactory completion of Specialist Training in Medical Ophthalmology. A certificate of satisfactory completion in specialist training in Medical Ophthalmology is the title and designation of qualification granted in the State, by the Medical Council, to enable a medical practitioner to secure registration in the Specialist Division of the Register, under the terms of Section 89(2) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. The College delivers the National Training Programme in Medical Ophthalmology and in collaboration with the RCSI, Surgical Ophthalmology.

The ICO works alongside our fellow Postgraduate Training Colleges to support the education and training of medical and surgical colleagues in Ireland.

2. ONGOING EDUCATION OF OPHTHALMIC SPECIALISTS

Maintaining and expanding skills, knowledge and competency is essential in medical practice. The ICO delivers a continuous programme of events and online content to support the continued acquisition of knowledge and skills by the profession.

Doctors who hold Specialist, General or Supervised registration with the Irish Medical Council, are required by law to maintain their professional competence and to enroll on a Professional Competence Scheme operated by a Postgraduate Medical Training Body relevant to their scope of practice.

The ICO operates the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) for ophthalmologists and those practicing within the specialty and advises doctors on how to fulfill this commitment and to continuously develop their professional skills.

The ICO remains committed to enhancing and promoting life-long learning and providing on-going professional development support to our members and members of the Integrated Eye Care Team.

3. ADVOCACY

The ICO advocates for the highest standards of eye healthcare delivery in Ireland, on behalf of patients and doctors.

We do this through our influence as the medical authority on eye care practice in Ireland, helping to shape healthcare policy in the interests of the delivery of safe, sustainable, equitable and quality care for all patients.

Through our collaboration with a number of key external stakeholders, including patient support groups, the Health Service Executive, the Department of Health, the Medical Council and the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies, the ICO is focused on demonstrating leadership and guidance on patient centered policy decisions.

The College places a high priority on our role as a trusted source of reliable eye health information for the public. We do this through the promotion of positive eye care practices, and raising awareness of the modifiable risk factors associated with the most common causes of sight loss.

.Underpinning all ICO activity is a commitment to:

- **Integrity** acting with openness, consideration and respect
- **Collegiality** supporting trainees and members through all stages of their career
- **Innovating** in the delivery of education & healthcare
- **Collaboration** working with others involved in the delivery of eye health care nationally and internationally.

DIRECTORS REPORT*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mr. John Doris - President and Chair of the Board
- Mr. Gerry Fahy - President Elect
- Mr. Tim Fulcher - Vice President
- Ms. Elizabeth McElnea
- Mr. Sean Chen
- Mr. James O'Reilly
- Dr. Aziz Rehman
- Dr. Mark James
- Dr Olya Scannell
- Mr Eamonn O'Connell
- Prof. Conor Murphy
- Ms Shauna Quinn
- Sean Gallagher

Dean of Postgraduate Education: Miss Yvonne Delaney

Clinical Lead for the National Clinical Programme in Ophthalmology: Ms. Aoife Doyle

The Board of Directors met on 6 occasions in 2023 and held an AGM on May 24, 2023.

All Board members are Directors of the Company. All Board members are inducted regarding their role and responsibilities.

Principal Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The principal activity of the College continues to be education, training, and the running of a professional body for ophthalmologists and ophthalmic surgeons. It is responsible for setting and maintaining standards in ophthalmic training for young ophthalmologists and for continuing medical education for those in practice. The College provides a range of skills courses for trainees and for continuing education.

****The full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 is included under Appendix 1 at the end of this document.***

GOVERNANCE

The ICO is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The voluntary Board of Directors, who are elected from the membership, provides governance oversight.

As a registered charity, the ICO is committed to our compliance with the requirements of the Charities Governance Code and has established its governance structures, policies and procedures to comply with the Code.

ICO Annual General Meeting

The ICO AGM was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

ICO President Mr Tim Fulcher chaired proceedings for the ICO Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 24th May. He updated members on the activities of the Board, presenting an overview of the ICO committee reports, financial report and 2022 audited accounts, the report from the Board and board elections.

The focus of the Board has continued to be on the regulatory requirements for the specialist training programmes, advocating for the expansion of ophthalmology capacity in the health service and increasingly the sustainability of ophthalmic practice and minimising the negative environmental impact of health care.

ICO Governance – Committee Structure

The committee structures of the College are designed to reflect the core mission of the ICO as a training and educational body.

Committee members are drawn from the ICO membership. On occasion, non-College members, with specific expertise, may be co-opted in an advisory capacity to a committee, if approved by the Board.

ICO committees are structured to ensure a balanced representation across the various areas of practice.

Committees are chaired by Board members, with a clear remit and work plan approved by the Board, to which they report.

The ICO committee structure is as follows:

- Governance and Nominations committee
- Finance committee
- Training Advisory committee

- Training Regulations and Standards committee
- Scientific and Continuing Professional Development committee
- Service Development committee

ICO Annual Report 2022

The ICO published its Annual Report 2022 on Wednesday, 24th May, 2023.

The report provides an update on ICO activities and finances for 2022, in line with the College's responsibilities under the Charities Governance Code and the requirements of the Charities Regulator.

The report was circulated to all ICO members and is published on the ICO website www.eyedoctors.ie

Operational Structure and Funding

The ICO is a membership-based organisation with an annual subscription fee.

Our members and trainees are a very important resource for the College. We rely on this community to help shape our policy, inform our leadership and develop the future of medical education, practice and healthcare. Our goal is to develop, encourage and continually expand relationships within the College at all levels, from the innovative trainee perspective to the invaluable experience of life and senior members.

A voluntary Board of Directors is elected from the membership to provide governance oversight and policy guidance.

The Chairman of the Board (ICO President), along with the other directors, sets the policy direction for the ICO and oversees the administration of affairs. The Chairman and the Board of Directors are charged with setting the strategy and goals of the ICO. A number of voluntary committees of the Board focus and advise on the specific areas of ICO activity.

The executive team is composed of a Chief Executive along with operational roles within the organisation: training programme manager, professional competence manager, communications and advocacy manager, and administrative services. The ICO staff are responsible for implementing the strategy and running the day-to-day activities of the College.

Sources of Funding and Reporting

The ICO holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) where our annual accounts are presented to the members for approval. These accounts are also included in our Annual Report, which is published on our website.

The College has a number of income streams; Members pay an annual subscription fee, the College runs educational events including an annual summer and autumn meeting for which there is a registration fee and a trade exhibition supported by pharmaceutical and instrument & device companies. The College has a service level agreement in place with the HSE for the delivery of specialist training and specialist support for the clinical programme.

ICO CORE ACTIVITIES

1. SPECIALTY TRAINING IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

ICO Market Research with Undergraduate Medical Students: March – June 2023

As part of the ICO's wider campaign to promote specialty training in Ophthalmology, the College conducted a market research survey via an invitation to participate to students through the Schools of Medicine in April and May 2023. The purpose of the survey was to understand how medical students gather information when researching or considering specialty training in Ireland and what factors may influence their decision. It was not specific to ophthalmology or any other specialty, medical or surgical. Our invitation to participate was targeted at all medical undergraduates in order to get the broadest, impartial feedback.

The survey had 50 respondents across three of the six Schools of Medicine who circulated the survey to their students: Trinity College, University College Cork and University of Galway. The majority of respondents stated they were currently in their 3rd year (46%) or 4th year (36%) of medical school. The remaining respondents stated they were in 1st, 2nd or 5th year (each at 6%)

The survey provided insights into when medical students decide on their chosen specialty to pursue, where and how they source information on specialty

training, the types of questions they have for training bodies and what areas are of importance to them when making a decision on their future career path.

The survey helped to identify some of the difficulties that medical students feel they encounter when trying to research the specialities. In particular, respondents expressed the need for greater access to information from the specialty training bodies and careers advice during medical school, the need for a central base for information on specialty training programmes and access for specialty training informational talks to be hosted by medical schools has been established and noted. Additionally, respondents highlighted the demand for medical schools to increase awareness of the pathways into specialty training and the opportunities after medical school.

Overall the ICO found the survey to be helpful in designing the next steps in our promotional campaign for speciality training in Ophthalmology and feedback from the Medical Students was incorporated into our 2023 Career's Day events.

Promotion of Specialist Training Programme In Medical & Surgical Ophthalmology

In 2023, the College continued its promotional recruitment campaign for Specialist Training in both Medical and Surgical Ophthalmology. The aim of the communications campaign was engagement with the

Schools of Medicine, Intern Networks and with the training units to highlight the Medical Ophthalmology programme and exciting career opportunities available to aspiring ophthalmologists, as the College looks to expand the number of training posts year-on-year to align a specialised medical workforce with patient demand.

A dedicated ICO online careers talk was hosted on the 10th October with a record number of registrations for this year's session. Miss Delaney outlined the programmes in medical and surgical ophthalmology and respective scorecard requirements. Miss Delaney was joined by Dr Patrick Canning, ICO Basic Surgical Trainee (BST) and Dr Alan Hopkins, ICO Basic Medical Trainee (BMT) who shared their valuable insights into a day in the life of a trainee with the prospective applicants and joined Miss Delaney in the Q&A session. The attendance record demonstrates the ongoing increased awareness of the training pathway options, following the coordinated and sustained communications strategy of the College with the undergraduate medical institutions, Intern Networks and the National Doctors Training Programme in recent years.

We continue to optimise on the opportunities for face to face meetings at careers events and talks which present throughout the academic calendar year. In 2023, these have included talks at Cork University Hospital Careers Event for the South Intern Network on September 28th, at University Limerick for the MidWest Intern Network on October 2nd and at the Galway University Hospital Careers event for interns, medical students and NCHD on October 5th. The College expresses its gratitude to Dr Meghann Canning BMT and Dr Aaron Donnelly HST for their representation of the College at the Galway careers event. It is really valuable for potential applicants to receive firsthand insights from trainees regarding their experiences and advice on how to prepare for application.

In Dublin, a careers in ophthalmology talk was delivered by Miss Delaney on October 19th at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland / Dublin North East Intern Network career event at Beaumont Hospital and for University College Dublin medical students on November 2nd at the Catherine McAuley Education. Miss Delaney and ICO Communications Manager Ciara Keenan wish to thank the Professors of Ophthalmology, clinical lecturers and tutors who have been most supportive in working with the College on career talk opportunities for their medical students.

Selection Processes For Basic And Higher Medical And Surgical Ophthalmology Programmes

Following the restructuring of the selection process for basic training in 2022 to an online format, the College decided to continue this online format for 2023 and into

the future for Basic Medical and Basic Surgical training programmes.

While shortlisting for the two Higher programmes, Medical and Surgery, also took place virtually and will continue to take place virtually for the foreseeable future, the decision was made to return to in-person interviews for Higher Medical and Higher Surgical training programmes in 2023.

Structured Objective Oral Examinations (SOEs) in Higher Medical Training (HMT)

The SOE is a mandatory summative component of the HMT Programme. The SOE takes place at the end of each subspecialty module in Medical Retina, Glaucoma and Paediatric Ophthalmology and must be passed by each candidate in order to progress. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure the required standard for independent practice consistent with the standard outlined in the curriculum is achieved.

In 2023, SOEs took place virtually in the summer for Glaucoma on 31st May 2023 and Paediatric Ophthalmology on 08th June 2023. The SOE in Medical Retina was held in person for the first time on 1st June 2023. Two further SOEs took place virtually in the winter for Paediatric Ophthalmology on 23rd November and for Glaucoma on 13th December 2023.

Objective Structured Examinations (OSEs) in Higher Surgical Training

The OSE is a formative assessment for trainees in HST Year 6. The OSEs assesses the 7 subspecialty areas of the HST curriculum and assess the ability of trainees to evaluate, diagnose and formulate treatment plans for ophthalmic conditions. These assessments serve to encourage ongoing learning and preparation for the final FRCSI exam in Ophthalmology. The OSEs took place virtually on the 9th June 2023.

Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training in Medical Ophthalmology

Award of the Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) in Medical Ophthalmology allows the Higher Medical Trainee to register on the ophthalmology specialist register of the Irish Medical Council and indicates that the trainee has reached the curricular standards of competence to practice independently as a consultant medical ophthalmologist in Ireland.

2023 saw the first graduates of the Higher Medical Training Programme (HMT) and culminated in the awarding of CCST for Dr Karen Curtin and Dr Emer Doolan. This is an excellent achievement and the ICO wishes both Karen and Emer the very best in their future careers as Medical Ophthalmologists.

National Masterclass in Glaucoma

Following the success of the ICO Masterclass Series in Medical Retina in 2022, the College held a Masterclass Series in Glaucoma for our trainees throughout the 2023 autumn/winter semester.

The first Masterclass of the series took place in person on October 19th and was delivered by Professor James Morgan, Cardiff University, on the "Care Pathways for OHT and Glaucoma" in Wales. The meeting was chaired by Ms Aoife Doyle, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and Glaucoma Specialist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, and St James's Hospital, Dublin. Professor Morgan took up his appointment at Cardiff in 1997 and established a research group to understand the pathophysiology of retinal damage in glaucoma. His research group has focussed on the factors that drive retinal ganglion cell degeneration to investigate the extent to which treatments can be used to reverse this degeneration. From 2015-23 he led the group developing the OpenEyes electronic record for ophthalmology, currently used in Moorfields Eye Hospital and adopted as the national solution for Scotland and Wales. Prof Morgan's presentation was followed by a questions and answers session.

The second session in the Glaucoma Masterclass series, "Evidence Based Management of Glaucoma Progression & Advanced Glaucoma", took place in person on November 16th with three guest speakers Professor Augusto Azaura Blanco, Queen's University, Belfast, Professor Anthony King, University of Nottingham and Professor Anders Heijl, Senior Professor and Consultant at the Dept of Ophthalmology, Skåne University Hospital Malmö, Lund University, Sweden, who joined the meeting via zoom. The meeting was chaired by Prof Colm O'Brien, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and Glaucoma Specialist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin.

Prof Blanco's research aims to improve health outcomes of people with eye diseases by investigating the effectiveness, safety and efficiency of new technologies (e.g., treatments, diagnostic tests, models of eye care). He is the Chief Investigator of several publicly funded trials, including EAGLE, GATE, GRIP, ACE and iTRAC (co-CI) glaucoma studies, and CHAMP-UK, on myopia and is a co-applicant of TAGS and GLAURIOUS (glaucoma) and a number of trials on diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration. Prof King's primary research interest is in the clinical management of glaucoma, particularly advanced glaucoma. He has received research funding support from the NIHR-HTA program, Glaucoma UK and Fight for Sight. He is currently the Chief Investigator of the NIHR funded Treatment of Advanced Glaucoma Study (TAGS). Prof Heijl initiated and served as Study Director of the Early Manifest Glaucoma Trial (EMGT) and was medical director of the Glaucoma Intensive Treatment Study (GITS). His research group have invented and developed

the Statpac programs for the Humphrey perimeter, including the now widely used concepts of Probability Maps, Pattern Deviation, Change Probability Maps, the Glaucoma Hemifield Test. The Swedish Interactive Thresholding Algorithm (SITA) was also developed in his laboratory, as were the Glaucoma Progression Analysis (GPA) programmes and the VFI index. A new even faster SITA test (SITA Faster) was released 4 years ago after several years of testing. The guest presentations were followed by case presentations from current ICO trainees with time for questions and discussion.

The third and final session in the Glaucoma Masterclass series for 2023 took place in person on November 30th with guest speaker Ms. Winnie Nolan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London on "Angle Closure Glaucoma: The Evidence and the Practice". The meeting was chaired by Ms Aoife Doyle. Ms Nolan spent 2 years conducting research into the epidemiology of angle closure in Mongolia and 18 months as a clinical and research fellow in Singapore. She is currently working with colleagues at the International Centre for Eye Health and the African Glaucoma Network on a programme of work aimed at prevention of glaucoma blindness in Sub-Saharan Africa. Her clinical interests and case mix include complex primary and secondary glaucomas and primary angle closure glaucoma. She spent 3 years as Clinical Director for Moorfields south 2013-16 and is Trustee and Chair of the Clinical Advisory Panel for Glaucoma UK. Ms Nolan's presentation was followed by case presentations from current trainees with time for questions and discussion.

Training Site Accreditation

The accreditation of training posts process is structured on the basis of ensuring that the quality and standard of ophthalmic training is consistent across training posts and equivalent to best practice in the sector. The goal of the accreditation process is to work with the training unit stakeholders to support the continual improvement, knowledge sharing and trainee learning experience while ensuring that the standards and guidelines associated with the accreditation process are implemented in a consistent, fair and transparent way.

The accreditation standards define the minimum set of standards that all training sites must meet and complement the Medical Council criteria for evaluation of training sites, which support the delivery of specialist training. The standards form the basis for training post inspections and audit for all Basic and Higher Ophthalmic Training posts in Surgical and Medical specialist training.

In 2023 the College conducted two training site accreditations, the first of which took place in April 2023 with University Hospital Limerick and the second in December 2023 with Sligo University Hospital. The

College wishes to thank representatives from both units in particular the Educational Supervisors, Mr Kevin Kennelly and Ms Annmarie Mongan as well as the Consultant Trainers from University Hospital Limerick and Sligo University Hospital for their support and participation in the accreditation process and their continued dedication in the delivery of specialist training in Ophthalmology.

Appointment of New Trainers & Train the Trainer Course

Following the introduction of the trainer portal and online modules, in 2023 the College introduced a new appointment process for Consultants who wish to become trainers with the ICO.

To be eligible to be a trainer with the ICO you must:

- Be registered on the Specialist Division of the Medical Council Register.
- Be registered on a Professional Competence Scheme.
- Practice at a Consultant level ophthalmic post in Ireland.
- Complete the mandatory requirements of the ICO Trainer education modules.

The process for appointment is as follows:

1. Educational Supervisors notifies ICO of new Consultant Appointments in clinical training sites.
2. ICO invites new Consultant to apply to become a trainer with the College.
3. Consultant completes application form.
4. ICO reviews the application against the eligibility criteria.
5. If applicant is eligible, the application is submitted to the Training Regulations and Standards
6. Committee for approval.
7. Training Regulations and Standards Committee reviews application and makes a decision to
8. approve or not.
9. ICO notifies Consultant that they are approved subject to the completion of the Train the
10. Trainer module.
11. Approved Consultants are provided with a copy of the ICO Code of Conduct.
12. ICO gives the new trainer access to the ICO Trainer Portal following internal confirmation of
13. completion of the Train the Trainer education modules.

In 2023, the College appointed three new Consultant Trainers, Mr Fergus Doyle, Mr Terence McSwiney and Mr Rory Murphy.

International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI)

The International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI) is a structured postgraduate medical training programme in ophthalmology for non EU International medical graduates. There are two streams to the programme, one is co-ordinated by the HSE National Doctors Training and Planning division, the Forum of Postgraduate Training Bodies and the Postgraduate Training Bodies. This stream facilitates participants to access a structured period of training and experience as developed by an Irish postgraduate medical training body to specifically meet the clinical needs of participants as defined by their home country's health service. Currently both the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan and the Sudanese Medical Specialisation Board participate in the Programme.

In 2023, four trainees commenced the two-year programme with the ICO. There are currently six trainees in total on this stream in 2023.

The clinical fellowship stream is aimed at International medical graduates who wish to develop ophthalmic sub-specialty surgical expertise. The Fellowship provides training opportunities for doctors who will be fully funded by their home country for the duration of their training. These doctors are generally at a more advanced stage of training and are employed at Specialist Registrar level in hospitals nationally. This cohort of doctors are recruited directly through the relevant training body and are supernumerary to the staff complement of the sites they are assigned. As with the Scholarship programme, it is not intended that the Fellowship will lead to settlement in Ireland. Joining the ICO ophthalmic community in Ireland through the bespoke Fellowship Programme offers a unique opportunity for international doctors to experience to the highest degree the delivery of complex healthcare in a broadened environment.

In September 2023, the College welcomed its second sponsored fellow from Oman who commenced the clinical fellowship in Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital under the tutelage of Prof David Keegan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Prof Paul Connell, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mr Ian Dooley, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, and Mr Nicholas Brennan, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon.

2. CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The College ran its Continuing Medical Education series throughout 2023 including the following events:

ICO Annual Conference 2023

The ICO Annual Conference 2023 took place from Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th May at the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney in Co. Kerry. Over 200 ophthalmologists and ICO trainees gathered for the three-day meeting to hear the latest clinical and scientific updates and developments in the specialty from national and international eye experts.

The topics of focus for symposia were; Updates in Medical Retina, the Watery Eye (from start to finish), Ocular Tumours and the Diagnosis and Management of Corneal Infections.

The programme featured parallel workshop sessions on 'OCT Interpretation in Macular Diseases' and on 'Managing the Nuances of Medico-legal Risk'. Paper and poster sessions (ICO medal and prize presentations) and the SOE Young Ophthalmologist Lecture 2023 are among the other highlights of the annual conference agenda each year.

ICO Medal Winners at the ICO Annual Conference 2023

Sir William Wilde Medal 2023 - Best Poster

"Printed Biomechanical Model of the Human Lamina Cribrosa"

Dr Simon Neary

Barbara Knox Medal 2023 - Best Paper

"Uveal Melanoma in Ireland"

Dr Alison Greene

Annual Mooney Lecture 2023

"Mitochondrial Function - a Potentially Modifiable Risk Factor for Glaucoma?"

Prof David Garway-Heath

A highlight of the ICO summer conference for delegates each year is the prestigious Mooney Lecture. The Lecture is named in honour of the Mooney family for their multigenerational contribution to ophthalmology in Ireland. In its 28th year, the 2023 Lecture was presented by Prof David Garway-Heath, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London.

In addition to his clinical work, Prof Garway Heath is Glaucoma UK Professor of Ophthalmology for Glaucoma and Allied Studies at the Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London and leads Vision Assessment

and Imaging Research at the Biomedical Research Centre of the UK National Institute for Health Research.

His research focuses on the development and evaluation of the techniques for effective diagnosis, monitoring and management of glaucoma, the identification of risk factors for glaucoma progression, and decision-support systems for healthcare delivery services. This work has contributed to the understanding of structure-function relationship in glaucoma, and the anatomical map that he invented (known as Garway-Heath map) is used worldwide in research in this field and has been incorporated into FORUM Glaucoma Workplace, a clinical tool developed by Zeiss for the management of glaucoma.

Prof Garway-Heath also pioneered a technique for analysing optic nerve head images, the Moorfields Regression Analysis, which contributed to the worldwide acceptance and use of imaging in the clinical management of glaucoma. This work was selected by University College London to showcase its excellence in medical research.

He was the principal investigator of the UK Glaucoma Treatment Study, the first randomized placebo-controlled trial to provide evidence for visual field preservation in glaucoma patients with an intraocular-pressure-lowering drug. This was the first glaucoma trial published in The Lancet, and the study design enabled a considerable reduction in the period needed to identify treatment effects.

Prof Garway-Heath's Mooney Lecture provided a fascinating examination of the substantial research and ongoing work in this area and efforts to trial a potential intervention.

Eye Care in Focus Conference 2023

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists hosted its annual one day education meeting for the multi-disciplinary eye care team at The Gibson Hotel in Dublin on Tuesday, 19th September, 2023.

The annual meeting invites all eye health care professionals, including ophthalmologists, ICO trainees, GP's, ophthalmic nurses, optometrists and orthoptists working both within the HSE and outside of the health service in private practice to a one day clinical education meeting.

The Conference is aimed at supporting continuing medical education opportunities for the wider eye care team, with key areas of clinical interest featuring on the day's agenda. It provides an important platform for clinical learning opportunities and expertise sharing within the Irish eye healthcare community.

Dedicated education sessions at the 2023 conference focused on Refractive Surgery (the assessment and options for patients) and on the integrated care pathways for Glaucoma patients in the community and

hospital setting. A separate patient advocacy session on 'Visual Impairment and Supporting Your Patients' included presentations from the Vision Ireland (formerly NCBI) and their Eye Clinic Liaison Officers representatives, highlighting the extensive range of services available in the community to anyone who needs support

Former international rugby player, Ian McKinley, delivered an inspirational keynote talk on his personal journey following an on pitch accident in 2010 which resulted in the loss of vision in his left eye.

Ian shared the profound impact the accident had on him both personally and professionally and how, through the support he received and the development of special goggles to protect his right eye, he managed to return to the game playing for Treviso in Italy, eventually getting the call up for the Italian National team. Ian retired from professional rugby in 2021 pursuing a career in rugby coaching and has continued to be an advocate for protective eye wear in the sport.

The ICO is committed to the further development of clinical education and supporting the continuing education of all those working to deliver eye care.

The Eye Care in Focus Conference returns in the autumn of 2024, taking place on Tuesday, 1st October at The Gibson Hotel in Dublin.

ICO Winter Meeting and Annual Montgomery Lecture 2023

The College held its annual Winter Meeting on Friday, December 1st, 2023 in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

A dedicated session on national clinical audit was the focus of discussion and the key role it plays in evaluating healthcare delivery efficiency, with the overall aim of improving patient outcomes.

Invited guest speakers were Dr Brian Creedon, Clinical Director of the National Office of Clinical Audit and Consultant Palliative Medicine Physician at University Hospital Waterford, Ms Suzanne Rowley, Irish National Orthopaedic Register Manager at the National Office of Clinical Audit and Mr Martin McKibbin, Clinical Lead for the National Ophthalmology Database UK Audit on Age-related Macular Degeneration and Consultant Ophthalmologist at Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust.

Podium presentations and a virtual poster exhibition highlighted the exciting areas of research and audit findings the doctors had undertaken in the previous year.

John Blake Medal 2023 – Best Scientific Research Paper

“Comparing the Safety and Efficacy of Preserflo Microshunt Implantation and Trabeculectomy for Glaucoma: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis”

Dr Adan Khan

Annual Montgomery Lecture 2023

“Paediatric Cataract Diagnostics - and the Role of Genetics in Improving Precise Diagnosis”

Prof Christopher Lloyd

It was a great honour and pleasure for the College to welcome Professor Christopher Lloyd, Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist and Head of Ophthalmology at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, to deliver the Annual Montgomery Lecture at the Albert Theatre in the RCSI on December 1st, 2023.

In his lecture “Paediatric Cataract Diagnostics – and the Role of Genetics in Improving Precise Diagnosis”, Prof Lloyd discussed approaches to diagnosis in infants and children with congenital and pediatric cataract including those found to be associated with systemic disease. Prof Lloyd outlined the methods used and discussed the utility of modern investigative techniques and the suggested revised models of care for children affected by these disorders.

2023 marked the 107th year of the Annual Montgomery Lecture. The establishment of the Lecture in 1916 was of great significance to the specialty of ophthalmology in Ireland. Dr Robert Montgomery served as an ophthalmic surgeon to St Mark's Hospital and the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital until his passing in 1912.

The Montgomery Lecture was the first medical lecture to be founded in Trinity College Dublin and the inaugural lecture was presented by Dr Euphan Maxwell in 1916 on the subject of "Diagnosis in Uveitis".

3. ICO PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE SCHEME

The ICO operates the Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) for doctors practicing as ophthalmologists who are registered with the Irish Medical Council on the General Register and the Specialist Register – Division of Ophthalmology and Division of Ophthalmic Surgery. The PCS is organised and run in line with the Arrangements Documents with the Medical Council of Ireland.

The ICO supports enrolled doctors in achieving, maintaining and developing their professional competence and in the process of recording credits using the PCS Online Portal.

The College provides support in the recording of CPD credits by ensuring credits for all College organised events are directly uploaded to the PCS online accounts for events attended. Information on CPD accredited meetings was continuously circulated to doctors via email, the ICO website, the ICO Member's Portal and the ICO newsletter throughout the PCS yearly cycle.

To aid our doctors in navigating the challenges of current medical and surgical practice, the ICO is committed to developing the PCS to ensure our scheme

is in keeping with the latest advancements from the Medical Council in relation to professional competence, and regularly contributing to Forum meetings and liaising with our fellow PGTBs on issues relating to professional competence.

In 2023, the ICO committed to delivering a full annual educational programme to assist members in meeting the requirements for Professional Competence and reflect the eight domains of good medical practice.

ICO Annual Educational Programme to support PCS engagement from Jan – Dec 2023:

- ICO Annual Conference 2023
- ICO Conference Extra Sessions: Bayer Breakfast Session on Medica Retina; Alimera Sciences Session on Uveitis.
- European Society of Ophthalmology Lecture 2023 (ICO Annual Conference)
- Eye Care in Focus 2023 - ICO Conference for the Extended Eye Care Team
- National Education Series Integrated Eye Care Team Webinar
- Charter Day Ophthalmology Parallel Sessio
- ICO Winter Meeting 2023
- Annual Montgomery Lecture 2023
- Annual Mooney Lecture 2023
- National Practice Audit

For support of doctors on the IMGTI programme and supervised division of the register:

- ICO National Tutorial Series in Ophthalmology
- Phaco Bootcamp
- Microsurgical Skills Course

End of PCS year 2022/23 (Jan - April 2023)

The ICO planned for the final four months of the PCS 2022/23 year to ensure there were regular check-ins, giving enrolled doctors adequate time to participate in any learning activities before the end of the PCS year on 30th April. Regular reminders were provided to enrolled doctors between Jan and April 2023, along with support for those having difficulty recording credits on the online PCS portal. Comparison of the previous year's enrolled list with the current year enrolled list was regularly carried out to identify any doctors who would benefit from a reminder to enrol.

As part of the PCS requirements for doctors, an audit of practice or quality improvement project must be completed.

The purpose of the audit is to establish if best practice is being adhered to for quality assurance and improvement purposes.

To assist members in meeting the audit/quality improvement requirement, the ICO provides project proposals to our members each year.

Audit proposals for 2023 included:

1. Your patient age trends over the last 10 years

Review the age profile of patients attending your practice over the last 10 years using the parameters below:

- Record the ages of 50 patients seen in the last 6 months of 2012 (1st July - 31st Dec 2012)
- Record the ages of 50 patients seen in the last 6 months of 2022 (1st July - 31st Dec 2022)

2. Average Distance travelled from your patients home to your practice

Review the average distance travelled by patients from their home to your practice over the last

10 years using the parameters below:

- Record the average distance that 50 patients travelled from their home to your practice during the last 6 months of 2012 (1st July - 31st Dec 2012)
- Record the average distance that 50 patients travelled from their home to your practice during the last 6 months of 2022 (1st July - 31st Dec 2022)

The audit proposals were facilitated by providing guidance and a platform to log the details and results of the audit, and at the end of the PCS year, the ICO recorded the audit credit on the PCS online accounts of those who participated.

The following end of year reports for the 2022/23 PCS year were collated and submitted to the Medical Council:

- Qualitative Report (general report recapping the year)
- Action Plan update (identifying objectives and goals for the upcoming year)
- Report on Actions in Response to Medical Council Oct 2022 Recommendations
- Report on Measures Implemented & Objectives for 2023/24 based on Medical Council's PCS Themes (a-h)
- Key Performance Indicators
- Financial Report
- Activities Recognised by the College for CPD
- Activities Provided by the College for CPD
- Uptake of Professional Development Plan

Start of PCS year 2023/24 (May - Dec 2023)

The ICO planned for the PCS year and prepared the educational programmes for all activities based on the identified needs of the patient, practice and Irish health

service. The educational programmes were also designed to be diverse, with both clinical and non-clinical content, incorporated the Domains of Good Professional Practice and provided opportunities for self and practice reflection.

Doctors in locally appointed Non Consultant Hospital Doctor (NCHD) non-training posts were invited to enrol for the Continuous Professional Development Support Scheme (CPD-SS) which is the HSE support scheme for those doctors participating in the Professional Competence Scheme. The ICO regularly updated these doctors with learning opportunities and provided support throughout 2023.

In 2023, the College assessed and recognised a range of external educational events for Continuous Professional Development to meet the needs of doctors seeking credits.

Proposed New PCS Guidelines to take effect from May 2024:

The Medical Council has proposed new Professional Competence Rules and Guidelines based on research into best international practice and following consultation with registered medical practitioners and other key stakeholders to take effect in May 2025. The majority of changes relate to the CPD categories. Once enrolled, registered medical practitioners must engage in and record 50 hours of CPD activity annually. There are four broad categories of CPD proposed: Planning, Practice Review, Work-based Learning, and Accredited Continuing Education.

Throughout 2023, the ICO worked with the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies and the Medical Council to understand and provide feedback on the proposed changes, preparing a communication plan for our PCS cohort to prepare and support them when the changes are formalised. Since August 2022, the ICO has had biweekly video calls with the IT development team from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to work on the new PCS Online Portal, which will launch in May 2024 along with the new PCS framework. The Medical Council has highlighted the importance of planning in professional development and this is why Planning has been made a full category on its own. The ICO provided feedback on the negative connotations of using the term Professional Development Plan (PDP), and it has been confirmed that the more generic term 'Plan' will be used instead.

The Verification Audit was carried out for the 2022/23 PCS year. Commencing in August 2023, the ICO conducted an audit of a randomly selected sample of enrolled doctors, providing support and reviews of the PCS records. All of the selected doctors were found to be fully compliant with the PCS requirements for the 2022/23 year and will be exempt from selection for the next 3 years.

4. NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY

The ICO has been a long-standing advocate for the expansion of ophthalmology services for patients in Ireland.

The aim of the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology programme is the development and expansion of HSE delivered ophthalmology services, both to meet the growing and changing needs of patients and to do so in a way that incorporates and reflects evolving practice.

The National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology, with support from the ICO, has worked extensively with the HSE and with the Department of Health to support the implementation of the new Integrated Eye Care Teams (IECT) which will extend the delivery of specialist ophthalmic care in the community.

The key recommendations of the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology include:

- The development of IECTs in the community linked to the acute hospital service. The IECT consists of Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist, Optometrists, Orthoptists, Ophthalmic Nurses, Technicians and Administrative support. IECTs are in place in CHO 6, 7, 9 in Dublin. A new primary care centre has opened in CHO4 (Cork), Ballincollig with a large clinic space for ophthalmology. Teams have been appointed in CHO2 in the west (Galway and Roscommon), with plans in motion also for CHO8 (Midlands). The Clinical Programme is rolling out the National Programme on the basis of funding being available and recruitment being possible. They are a major component of addressing the current demands for specialist ophthalmology services with a building up of capacity in HSE community clinics.
- Investment in information technology is an essential enabler to transfer patients currently being seen in the hospital to the new teams in the primary care centres.
- Expansion of theatre access and establishment of stand-alone, cataract only theatres for efficient higher volume delivery of surgery with pre and post-operative care delivered in HSE Community clinics.
- The first dedicated theatre for cataracts was established in the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital in 2018. The service is now doing between 2,000 and 2,500 cases a year. A second theatre for cataracts has been established in the Mater Hospital in Dublin.
- A dedicated cataract theatre is operational in Nenagh
- A second cataract theatre has opened in Waterford.

Among the key priorities for the Clinical Programme and

the Integrated Eye Care Team model is the implementation of new national cataract patient care pathway, and the transfer of patients with stable ocular conditions from the acute hospital to specialist delivered care in the community.

The implementation of the recommendations are expected to address the significant capacity deficit in out-patient services, reduce the out-patient department waiting lists and increase the capacity in the acute hospital setting to deliver complex care.

With a projected 30% increase in services over the next decade and a predicted population surge to 11 million across the entire island of Ireland by 2050, there is a robust demand for ophthalmology services, necessitating the expansion of the integrated eye care team plan throughout the country.

ICO National Education Series for the Integrated Eye Care Team Meeting

The ICO, in collaboration with the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology, hosted the fifth meeting in the National Education Series for the HSE Integrated Eye Care Team on Thursday, 30th March 2023.

The meeting took place at the Education and Learning Centre, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin with an audience of ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, ophthalmic nurses and HSE management.

The National Education Series coordinated by the ICO and National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology has been developed in support of the implementation of the new Integrated Eye Care Teams (IECT) which is extending the delivery of specialist ophthalmic care in the non-acute setting.

Presentations were given by Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists Dr Margaret Morgan and Dr Olya Scannell on the development of eye care services in South Dublin (CHO7) in partnership with the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

Their talks provided an update on the continued reconfiguration of adult and children's eye care service delivery, as guided by the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology Model of Care. Prof Billy Power, the National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology, chaired the session.

Appointment of New Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology - December 2023

Ms Aoife Doyle, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin and St James's Hospital, was appointed as the new Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology in December 2023, succeeding Professor Billy Power, who has held the post for a number of years.

Priorities for the programme include the continued roll out of the integrated eye care teams and the implementation of a national electronic clinical management system.

Ms Aoife Doyle has a wealth of experience in delivering ophthalmology services including the development of the integrated cataract and glaucoma service across the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Community Healthcare Area with colleagues in Kilnamanagh Tymon Primary Care Centre (CHO7). The service is paperless with an electronic medical record and imaging platform shared with the Eye and Ear Hospital to allow all clinical information to be accessible at the point of patient care.

Ms Doyle has also set up a nurse led glaucoma assessment clinic service where patients with mild to moderate stable glaucoma are monitored in the pathway. Any patients needing review with a consultant, nurse practitioner or specialist optometrist in the case of CHO7 can be referred seamlessly with automatic transfer of information and return of care to the stable clinic from the central hub where appropriate.

The ICO wishes to thank and acknowledge the outgoing Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology, Professor Billy Power, for the significant developments he achieved for the specialty during tenure. Prof Power's commitment to the role was unwavering, and the College commends him for the successful initiation of key recommendations contained in the Model of Eye Care, resulting in improved services for eye care patients and greater access to care.

The College looks forward to continuing our support of the work of the Programme with Ms Aoife Doyle at the helm.

5. ADVOCACY

The College, in its remit as a registered charity and through its core function as the education and training body for eye specialists, recognises the significant importance of supporting and advocating on behalf of both patients and doctors in striving for the best eye healthcare system possible in Ireland.

We endeavour to carry out this duty of care through our ongoing collaboration with patient support groups on our shared goals and demonstrating leadership on healthcare practice and patient focused policy decisions.

Practitioner Health Matters Programme

Practitioner Health Matters Programme Supporting and advocating for the wellbeing of doctors, those in training and in practice, is a key priority for the ICO.

In this vein, the College continued our financial contributions to the Practitioner Health Matters Programme (PHMP) which provides a confidential

service to doctors and healthcare practitioners seeking confidential medical assistance.

The PHMP has confirmed that demand has grown consistently in recent times, with the continuous growth in presentations a reflection of the increasing stress and pressure being placed on the medical professions.

In addition to the regular stress of providing medical care to patients, the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic has led to enormous emotional strain on the cohort of front-line professionals whom the PHMP endeavor to assist and support.

ICO Listen and Learn Patient Engagement Session

The ICO hosted a 'Listen and Learn' patient engagement session with patient advocacy groups representatives on the evening of May 8th, 2023.

The session was aimed at helping the College develop a greater understanding of the direct experience of patients, and to integrate our learnings into the ICO training and continuing medical education and professional development programmes.

An invitation to participate in the session was circulated to patient advocacy groups prior to the date across the vision, dual sensory and broader family and professional carer advocacy representatives.

The groups who participated in the session were Vision Ireland (formerly National Council for the Blind), Fighting Blindness, Sjögren's Ireland, Usher Syndrome Ireland, Feach and Care Alliance Ireland.

Each representative gave a short presentation sharing the perspective of the patient, families and of carers. They outlined key messages of importance to share with clinicians and trainee doctors.

Patient groups were invited to share their service information on www.eyedoctors.ie under the 'Your Eye Health' and Patient Support section and on our ICO members portal.

The College will continue our engagement with patient representative groups to encourage dissemination of helpful guidance and feedback from patients to clinicians.

Eye Care in Focus Conference 2023

Vision Ireland (formerly NCBI) collaborated with the College to deliver a dedicated patient advocacy session at the Eye Care in Focus Conference for the extended eye care team at The Gibson Hotel on September 19th, 2023.

During the 'Visual Impairment and Supporting your Patient' session, delegates heard from Vision Ireland and the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO) service on the ways

in which the eye care team can support visually impaired patients in the clinic, the referral guidelines and the importance of timely intervention in offering support to patients.

Ms Hilary Devlin, Eye Clinic Liaison Officer at CHI Temple Street and Crumlin Hospital spoke about the service provided by the ELCO team, enabling and informing patients in the acute setting on how to access community based services.

The ECLO service currently operates in The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, CHI at Temple Street and Crumlin Children's Hospital as well as Cork University Hospital, Cork, with a focus on continued national roll out.

Ms Kristina Millar, National Insights and Impact Manager, Vision Ireland outlined the broad range of services offered by the Vision Ireland for any one experiencing vision impairment, including the rehabilitation services available in the community, how patients can access them and what eye care professionals can do to help support awareness and the referral process.

Ms Janice Brady, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Waterford University Hospital shared her personal experience as a clinician, discussing the importance of the relationship that is built between the doctor and a patient, often over years of care. She spoke about her experience of learning how to support her patients as best as possible whilst acknowledging the challenges of being able to do this in a busy clinic and the vital role therefore of the ECLO service in supporting these patients.

A panel discussion, chaired by Mr Kevin Kelly, National Strategic Partnerships Manager, NCBI, provided an opportunity for patients and the ECLO team to further share their insights, personal experiences and perspectives with patient representatives. The discussion allowed for a greater understanding of the personal experience of those who are living with or caring for a loved one with a visual impairment and just how significant the support services that are provided by the eye health care team, Vision Ireland and ECLO are to their everyday lives.

Former Leinster Rugby player, Ian McKinley, who lost vision in his left eye as a result of an on-pitch incident in 2010 shared his inspirational story as a keynote guest speaker during this session of the conference.

ICO Annual Conference 2023 - Patient Experience - Microbial Keratitis

The College was extremely grateful to Ms Eleanore O'Gorman, who gave the closing talk at the Keratitis symposium at the ICO Annual Conference in Killarney on her personal experience of microbial keratitis, the most common serious form of keratitis.

Eye Health Public Awareness Initiatives

Throughout the calendar year, a number of national and international eye health awareness initiatives take place, including World Glaucoma Awareness Week and World Sight Day, which the College endeavours to promote public awareness around.

The aim is to encourage people to remember eye health as part of their overall good health & well-being management, particularly as people age and for those in the higher risk categories.

Thursday October 13th 2023 marked World Sight Day (WSD), an annual awareness event which aims to focus international attention on vision impairment and blindness affecting billions of people of all ages around the world.

Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist Dr Mairide McGuire was invited on the Today with Claire Byrne

Show on RTE Radio to talk about eye health and answer questions from the public on ways in which they can look after their vision health.

ICO President, Mr John Doris participated in the Pan-Ireland Ophthalmology Conference hosted by Queen's University, Belfast on October 13th, 2023. The annual event is timed to coincide with World Sight Day and features a programme of international experts in clinical and vision sciences, placing a spotlight on the global issue of avoidable blindness and visual impairment.

During his speech, Mr John Doris emphasised the importance of maintaining collaborative efforts in education, training, and research that involve the entirety of Ireland. He commended the joint investment made by ophthalmology organisations in the US, Northern Ireland, and Ireland for their tripartite research and development programme.

Additionally, he acknowledged the support of Northern Ireland at the ICO Eye Care in Focus meeting, which took place in September 2023. This meeting serves as a valuable platform for networking and shared education among allied eye healthcare professionals.

Newsletter

The ICO newsletter provides updates to our membership and stakeholders on news and developments taking place in the specialty and is an important means to capture our key activities, including

our advocacy outreach. It is circulated directly to our members by post and email via our monthly e bulletin and available electronically on our website for all stakeholders and the public to access. It is emailed separately to a list of key external stakeholders and policy decision makers to promote greater

understanding of the role and function of the College in line with our charitable purpose - advancing eye health care in Ireland.

Social Media

The ICO uses various social media platforms (X, LinkedIn and Instagram) to engage with key health care partners, patient advocacy groups and decision makers in the interest of eye health promotion, supporting members and increasing public awareness of relevant College updates and eye health related news.

6. BURSARY PROGRAMME

Recipients of ICO/Bayer Clinical Bursary in Ophthalmology 2023

Dr Barry Power and Dr Karen Curtin, who were both awarded their Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training in 2023, were named joint recipients of the ICO/Bayer Clinical Bursary in Ophthalmology 2023.

Dr Karen Curtin is currently undertaking a Medical Retina Clinical Fellowship at the internationally renowned Bristol Eye Hospital in the UK. Dr Curtin's one year fellowship commenced in August 2023 under the supervision and guidance of Ms Serena Salvatore, Head of Medical Retina, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr. Barry Power is on a one-year Cornea and Anterior Segment Fellowship at the Greenlane Clinical Centre and University of Auckland in New Zealand (commenced January 2024) under the supervision of Professor Charles McGhee, Maurice Paykel Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Auckland and Director, New Zealand National Eye Centre.

The Clinical Bursary is intended to support a trainee to access a high-quality training opportunity overseas to prepare for a future career in this subspecialty and bring the skillset back to the Irish healthcare service.

Application is open to ICO trainees nearing the end or recently finished their Higher Surgical Training or Higher Medical Training. The ICO Clinical Bursary programme, with support from Bayer, has been instrumental in facilitating exceptional specialty training for ICO trainees in centers of excellence internationally over the past decade.

Dr Karen Curtin's fellowship programme at Bristol Eye Hospital provides advanced subspecialty training in medical retinal, uveitis and related ocular inflammatory diseases.

The hospital also has a very active Clinical Research Unit where, as a Fellow, Dr Curtin will have the opportunity to work as a clinical trial sub-investigator and experience firsthand how clinical trials are conducted. Dr Curtin said her aim through this fellowship is to become an expert in diagnosing and treating sight threatening uveitis with immunosuppressants, to develop an in-depth knowledge in inherited retinal dystrophies and ocular malignancy and to solidify her knowledge acquired to date in medical retina and multi-modal retinal imaging.

During her Fellowship, Dr Curtin will work with Prof Andrew Dick, a leading expert in the management of complex ocular inflammatory disease, whose seminal work (VISUAL I, VISUAL II AND SYCAMORE) generated the evidence and scientific rationale that led to both the use and UK state funding of anti-Tumour Necrosis Factor(TNF) agents in the treatment of non-infectious ocular inflammatory disease.

The Cornea and Anterior Segment Fellowship in Auckland where Dr Barry Power will undertake his sub specialty training has a world-class reputation, offering successful candidates an opportunity to access the most cutting-edge techniques in corneal surgery.

The fellowship has an 80% clinical, and 20% academic split under the leadership of Professor Charles McGhee. Fellows are also exposed to high volumes of complex cataract surgery and anterior segment reconstructions. The fellowship is a combined cornea and anterior

segment training experience, with exposure to high volumes of infectious and inflammatory keratitis, keratoconus, ocular cicatrizing disease, ocular surface neoplasia and advanced corneal surface disease. Dr Power said he chose this fellowship as it will provide a unique corneal and anterior segment training experience that will add to the corneal expertise already present in Ireland.

Dr Power was involved with setting up the Down Syndrome Keratoconus screening programme at The Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, and is an example, Dr Power said, of a patient population he hopes will benefit from his specialty training on his return to Ireland.

The ICO acknowledges the tremendous benefit this clinical bursary has to our ophthalmic specialist training experience and in turn to the Irish health service, and thank Bayer for their continued support.

Legal and Administrative Information

Directors

John Paul Doris	
Tim Fulcher	
Sean Chen	
Eamonn O'Connell	
Aziz Ur Rehman	
Elizabeth McElnea	
Mark James	
James O'Reilly	
Gerald Fahy	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Olya Scannell	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Conor Murphy	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Shauna Quinn	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Sean Gallagher	(Appointed 24 May 2023)

Secretary

Brona Kavanagh

Charity Number

20028039

CHY Number

10781

Company Number

151473

Principal address

121 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Registered office

121 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Auditor

UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited
Unit 4A, Fingal Bay Business Park, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
39 St. Stephens Green East, Dublin 2, Ireland

Solicitors

Cormac O Ceallaigh & Co. Solicitors
388 North Circular Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7

APPENDIX 1



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Companies Act 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)¹ (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The principal activity is the running of a professional body for ophthalmologists and ophthalmic surgeons. It is responsible for setting and maintaining standards in ophthalmic training for young ophthalmologists and for continuing medical education for those in practice. The company provides a range of skills courses for trainees and for continuing education.

Achievements and performance

The College continued to oversee and deliver specialist training for ophthalmologists, both for those in training and for those in practice. The Programme of Speciality Training in Ophthalmology was formally accredited by the Medical Council in 2021 but this accreditation came with a number of conditions and recommendations that must be implemented. The implementation of the Medical Council conditions and recommendations requires that significant additional resources are allocated to specialty training. The funding for the Dean of Postgraduate Education has been increased from 0.4 WTE to 0.8 WTE for a period of three years to meet the requirements, with a further review planned at the end of that period. The College continued to support the delivery of the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology and to deliver a Professional Competence Scheme.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Having navigated our way through the Covid Pandemic of 2020 – 2021, The outbreak of the War in Ukraine in 2022 has brought great uncertainty to the Global Economy and the College has had to deal with the ever increasing costs and inflation. We have prudently managed all expenditure and on this basis the directors are satisfied the organisation can continue as a going concern. The College has a service level agreement with the HSE for the delivery of specialist training. The funding received through this does not cover the entire cost of the delivery of the specialty training programmes and is supplemented by the College from other funds. While this is feasible in the short to medium term, over the longer term reconsideration may be necessary. The College has continued to grow during 2022 but for continued growth, further administrative resources will be required.

Financial review

The surplus for the year after providing for depreciation and accounting for the decrease in fair value of investments amounts to €28,478 (2022: €26,021).

At the year end, the company has assets of €1,743,442 (2022: €1,689,223) and liabilities of €122,415 (2022: €96,674).

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

John Paul Doris Tim Fulcher	
Maire McGuire	(Resigned 24 May 2023)
Caroline Baily	(Resigned 24 May 2023)
Sean Chen	
Eamonn O'Connell	
Aziz Ur Rehman	
Colm O'Brien	(Resigned 24 May 2023)
Patricia Quinlan	(Resigned 24 May 2023)
Elizabeth McElnea	
Mark James	
James O'Reilly	
Gerald Fahy	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Olya Scannell	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Conor Murphy	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Shauna Quinn	(Appointed 24 May 2023)
Sean Gallagher	(Appointed 24 May 2023)

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

Brona Kavanagh

Accounting records

The charity's directors acknowledge their responsibilities under sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 to ensure that the charity keeps adequate accounting records. The following measures have been taken:

- employing qualified and/or experienced staff, and
- ensuring that sufficient charity resources are available for the task, and
- liaising with the charity's auditor.

The accounting records are held at the company's business premises, 121 St Stephens Green Dublin 2 Co. Dublin Ireland.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Post reporting date events

There have been no significant events affecting the charity since the year end.

Charitable Status

The company holds a charitable status (CHY No 10781 RCN 20028039) and as such is exempt from corporation tax in accordance with Section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The directors' report was approved by the Board of Directors.

John Paul Doris

Director

Tim Fulcher

Director

Date: _____

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and the FRS

102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Irish College of Ophthalmologists (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we were unable to determine whether adequate accounting records had been maintained.
- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the directors' report; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Thomas McDonagh

for and on behalf of UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited

Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor
Unit 4A
Fingal Bay Business Park Balbriggan
Co. Dublin Ireland

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022	Total 2022
	Notes	€	€	€	€	€	€
Income from:							
Charitable activities	2	306,544	351,543	658,087	323,981	417,866	741,847
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities		274,414	346,833	621,247	201,447	403,935	605,382
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	(8,362)	-	(8,362)	(110,444)	-	(110,444)
Net movement in funds		23,768	4,710	28,478	12,090	13,931	26,021
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		1,462,048	130,501	1,592,549	1,449,958	116,570	1,566,528
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		1,485,816	135,211	1,621,027	1,462,048	130,501	1,592,549

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2014.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		€	€	€	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		4,043		5,438
Investments	11		1,053,500		1,061,862
			<u>1,057,543</u>		<u>1,067,300</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	186,815		96,399	
Cash at bank and in hand		499,084		525,524	
		<u>685,899</u>		<u>621,923</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(122,415)</u>		<u>(96,674)</u>	
Net current assets			563,484		525,249
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,621,027</u>		<u>1,592,549</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds			135,211		130,501
Unrestricted funds			1,485,816		1,462,048
			<u>1,621,027</u>		<u>1,592,549</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on _____.

John Paul Doris
 Director

Tim Fulcher
 Director

Company Registration No. 151473

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	€	2023	€	€	2022	€
Cash flows from operating activities							
Cash generated from operations	20		(24,391)			88,056	
Investing activities							
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,049)		(1,175)			
Net cash used in investing activities							
			(2,049)			(1,175)	
Net cash used in financing activities							
			–			–	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents							
			(26,440)			86,881	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			525,5243			438,643	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year							
			499,084			525,524	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Irish College of Ophthalmologists is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Ireland. The registered office is 121 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The company has applied the recommendations contained in Charities SORP (FRS 102) effective since 1 January 2015.

The financial statements are prepared in euro, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest €.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	12.5% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	12.5% straight line
Computers	33.33% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 €	Restricted funds 2023 €	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Membership subscriptions	70,800	-	70,800	74,640
Ongoing Professional Education	30,570	-	30,570	48,866
Professional Competence Scheme	22,000	-	22,000	27,070
Fellowship Grants	-	20,000	20,000	25,000
Specialist Training - HSE Income	-	250,225	250,225	271,548
Clinical Programme - HSE Income	-	81,318	81,318	81,318
Other income including International Programme	13,333	-	13,333	75,000
Other Income - (medical council)	5,800	-	5,800	5,800
Annual Conference	133,531	-	133,531	132,605
Eyecare in Focus	30,510	-	30,510	-
Total	306,544	351,543	658,087	741,847

3 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 €	Restricted funds 2023 €	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Staff costs	61,257	203,252	264,509	253,122
Specialist training	45,639	91,010	136,649	123,078
Accreditation Project	61,112	-	61,112	54,808
Clinical Programme	-	13,483	13,483	31,502
Fellowship grants paid	-	20,000	20,000	25,000
Conference costs	65,456	-	65,456	69,980
Eyecare in Focus	15,587	-	15,587	-
College expenses	16,896	16,896	33,792	35,373
Audit fees	2,062	2,063	4,125	5,615
Legal & professional fees	2,833	-	2,833	2,986
Bank charges	128	129	257	256
Depreciation and impairment	3,444	-	3,444	3,662
	274,414	346,833	621,247	605,382

4 Net movement in funds

	2023 €	2022 €
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	3,444	3,662

5 Directors

None of the directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

6 Accreditation Project

	2023 €	2022 €
Three year Project: Year One Costs	-	54,808
Three year Project: Year Two Costs	61,112	-
	<u>54,808</u>	<u>-</u>

The Programme of Speciality Training in Ophthalmology was formally accredited by the Medical Council in 2021. The implementation of the Medical Council conditions and recommendations requires additional resources.

The budget for specialist training has been increased to reflect the increased resources for the Dean from 0.4 to 0.8 WTE.

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Administration	6	5
	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

Employment costs

	2023 €	2022 €
Wages and salaries	229,658	220,162
Social security costs	25,358	24,281
Pension costs	9,493	8,679
	<u>264,509</u>	<u>253,122</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than €60,000 is as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
€60,000 to €70,000	-	-
€70,001 to €80,000	1	1
€80,000 to €90,000	-	-
€90,001 to €100,000	-	-
Over €100,000	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Remuneration of key management personnel

	2023 €	2022 €
Remuneration of Key management personnel	205,748	201,390
	<u>205,748</u>	<u>201,390</u>

9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Fair value gains / (losses)	(8,362)	(110,444)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment €	Fixtures and fittings €	Computers €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	135,360	17,907	26,483	179,750
Additions	-	-	2,049	2,049
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2023	135,360	17,907	28,532	181,799
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 January 2023	135,360	14,121	24,831	174,312
Depreciation charged in the year	-	1,894	1,550	3,444
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2023	135,360	16,015	26,381	177,756
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2023	-	1,892	2,151	4,043
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2022	-	3,786	1,652	5,438
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

11 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments €
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	1,061,862
Valuation changes	(8,362)
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2023	1,053,500
	<u> </u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	1,053,500
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2022	1,061,862
	<u> </u>

12 Debtors

	2023	2022
	€	€
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	180,759	90,009
Prepayments and accrued income	6,056	6,390
	<u>186,815</u>	<u>96,399 1</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2023	2022
		€	€
Taxation		14,986	15,758
Deferred income	14	57,632	32,600
Trade creditors		39,888	38,278
Other creditors		1,600	1,342
Accruals		8,309	8,696
		<u>122,415</u>	<u>96,674</u>

14 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	€	€
Other deferred income	57,632	32,600
	<u>57,632</u>	<u>32,600</u>

The deferred income as at 31 December 2023 includes the following:

- Bayer Bursary Grant €20,000 (2022: €23,000)
- Membership fees €10,965 (2022: €9,600)
- International Fellowship €26,667 (2022: €Nil)

15 Statement of funds

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022: None noted).

16 Statement of funds

	Balance 1 January 2023 €	Incoming resources €	Resources expended €	Transfers €	Balance 31 December 2023 €
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	1,462,048	306,544	(282,776)	-	1,485,816
Restricted funds					
Restricted funds	130,501	351,543	(346,833)	-	135,211
	<u>1,592,549</u>	<u>658,087</u>	<u>(629,609)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,621,027</u>

17 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The company had no material contingent liabilities at the year end 31 December 2023.

18 Events after the reporting date

There were no significant events affecting the company since the year end 31 December 2023.

19 Status

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members or within one year thereafter for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves such amount as may be required, not exceeding €1.00

20 Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
	€	€
Surplus for the year	28,478	26,021
Adjustments for:		
Fair value gains and losses on investments	8,362	110,444
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,444	3,662
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(90,416)	11,967
Increase in creditors	709	262
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	25,032	(64,300)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(24,391)	88,056
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

21 Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on _____ 2024.

IRISH COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

About the ICO

Established in 1992, the Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO) is the recognised training and professional body for medical and surgical eye doctors in Ireland.

The ICO is a registered Irish charity. We are committed to the advancement and improvement of eye health and patient safety and work to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards in the delivery of eye care.

The delivery of healthcare requires a lifelong commitment to learning and the ICO's goal is to provide and support education and learning for ophthalmologists in training, in practice and those who work alongside them as they deliver care to patients.



Irish College of
Ophthalmologists
Eye Doctors of Ireland
Protecting your Vision

Irish College of Ophthalmologists

121 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

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