



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



*Eye Care in Focus*

**CONFERENCE 2024**

*Clinical Education Conference for the  
Extended Eye Care Team*

**Tuesday, October 1, 2024  
The Gibson Hotel, Dublin**

 @eyedoctorsirl  
#EyeCareInFocus24

## SPONSORS



# PROGRAMME

**8.00am** **Check In and Refreshments**

**8.30am** **Welcome address**

MR JOHN DORIS  
President, Irish College of Ophthalmologists

**8.35am** **CLINICAL SESSION: CATARACT**

*Development of a Cataract Pathway in Dublin North East*

MR TIM FULCHER  
Ophthalmologist, Mater Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

*Challenging Clinical Situations in Cataract Surgery*

MS LISA McANENA  
Ophthalmologist, Mater Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

*Optometrist Led Post-op Cataract Clinic*

MS CHRIOSA O'CONNOR  
Clinical Optometrist, Mater Hospital, Dublin

*CH07 Referral Pathways and Service*

DR MARGARET MORGAN  
Ophthalmologist, CH07 and Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin

*10 Ways to Improve Cataract Referrals*

MS TANIA CONSTABLE  
Clinical Optometrist, CH07, Dublin

Q & A

**10.30am** **Refreshments**

**11.00am** **MAKING YOUR PRACTICE MORE SUSTAINABLE**

*Sustainability in Cataract Surgery*

DR ALISON GREENE  
Ophthalmology SpR, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin

*Recycling - It's the Simple Things*

MS LOUISE DOYLE  
Theatre Nurse, University Hospital Waterford

*Simple Ways to Make Your Practice More Sustainable*

MS HELEN CURRAN  
Head of Sustainability, Specsavers UK/IRE

Q&A

**12.00pm** **UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME IN OPHTHALMOLOGY**

*Developing the Eye Care Strategy: where to next?*

MS AOIFE DOYLE,  
Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin  
National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology

*Orthoptics within the Public Health Service – the challenges and opportunities*

MS SARAH SPAIN  
Senior Orthoptist, Health & Social Care Professions (HSCP) Lead for the National Clinical Programme in Ophthalmology

*Supporting and Developing the Role of Nursing and Ophthalmic Technician*

MS CATHRÍONA ENNIS  
Director of Nursing, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin

**12.45pm** **Lunch**

**1.45pm** **CLINICAL SESSION: PAEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY**

*Person First: Assessing Vulnerable Adults with Additional Needs*

MS TANIA CONSTABLE  
Clinical Optometrist, CH07, Dublin

# PROGRAMME

*Community Paediatric Ophthalmology (Policies, Procedures and Integrated Approach)*

DR GERALDINE COMER

Ophthalmologist, University Hospital Galway  
CH02 West

*Retinopathy of Prematurity - Past, Present and Future*

DR CHRISTINE BOURKE

Paediatric Ophthalmology Clinical Fellow,  
Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street and  
Crumlin Hospitals

Q&A

**2.45pm**

## **CASE BASED DISCUSSION**

DR EMER DOOLAN

Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear  
Hospital, CH06 and CH07

**3.15pm**

## **THE ROLE OF NUTRITION IN PROTECTING VISION**

*The Evidence for Targeted Nutrition to Improve Visual Function*

PROF JOHN NOLAN

Founder and Director, Nutrition Research Centre  
Ireland; Howard Chair in Human Nutrition and  
Principal Investigator of the Macular Pigment  
Research Group, South East Technological  
University, Waterford

Prof Nolan will also outline the plans for a New  
School of Optometry at South East Technological  
University

**4.00pm**

## **Meeting Close**

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mr Tim Fulcher

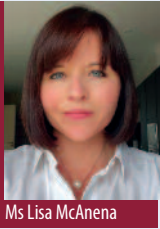
### **Mr Tim Fulcher**

*Ophthalmologist, Mater Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Dublin*

Mr Tim Fulcher is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Mater Private and Beaumont Hospital.

Mr Fulcher completed subspecialty fellowship training in cornea and external eye disease at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London and in eyelid, lacrimal and orbital disease in Brisbane under Prof Timothy Sullivan.

He is also an Honorary Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin. He served as president of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists (2021-2023).



Ms Lisa McAnena

### **Ms Lisa McAnena**

*Ophthalmologist, Mater Hospital and Beaumont Hospital, Dublin*

Ms Lisa McAnena is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Mater Private and Beaumont Hospital.

Ms McAnena completed subspecialty fellowship training in paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Royal Eye Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospitals in 2018/19, London and in neuro-ophthalmology at Moorfields Eye Hospital London in 2020/21.

She delivers medical and surgical ophthalmology services in her clinical practice, including cataract surgery and sub specialises in neuro-ophthalmology and strabismus.



Ms Chríosa O'Connor

### **Ms Chríosa O'Connor**

*Clinical Optometrist, Mater Hospital, Dublin*

Ms Chríosa O'Connor qualified as an optometrist from DIT, Kevin Street in 2000. She moved to the UK where she gained clinical experience working as an optometrist in a range of settings including refractive surgery, diabetic retinopathy screening and grading, independent and corporate practice, accredited cataract referrals schemes, and in the laser clinic, St James's Hospital in Leeds. She took on a role in professional services at Vision Express, overseeing their pre-registration optometrist support across the UK and Ireland.

Whilst in the UK she completed a post-graduate diploma in Clinical Optometry from City University, London.

Chríosa returned to Ireland in 2011 where she worked as an optometrist in private practice, followed by a clinical optometrist role in Prof William Power's iVision practice, Blackrock Clinic.

Since 2017, Chríosa has been a part time clinic supervisor in the student optometry clinics at TU Dublin.

She has been in her current post as a Clinical Optometrist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital since 2021.

Chríosa served as an Optometry Ireland council member and has represented OI on the National Screening Service Diabetic Retina screen Quality Assurance and Clinical Advisory Group committees.



## **Dr Margaret Morgan**

*Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and CHO7*

Dr Margaret Morgan is a Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist based in Dublin with a clinical commitment in Community Healthcare Organisation 7 and the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital with an interest in developing eye services for adults in the community. She led a pilot service for diabetic retinopathy screening and was the first clinical lead for the development and roll-out of the National Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Service in Ireland. Dr Morgan is a member of the service development committee of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists.



## **Ms Tania Constable**

*Clinical Optometrist, CHO7; President, Optometry Ireland*

Ms Tania Constable is an experienced clinical optometrist, working within the HSE for the last 6 years, both in an acute and secondary care setting within ophthalmology.

Tania gained her undergraduate degree from the University of Manchester in 2007, and then went on to work in the U.K for a number of years before returning to Ireland. She was one of the first optometrists to hold the College of Optometrists Higher Certificate in Paediatric Eye Care.

She was awarded an MSc in Clinical Optometry in 2023 by Cardiff University.

Tania has a special interest in the development of eye care resources for children with additional needs. She established one of the first additional needs eye clinics within the HSE (Irish Health Service).

Tania is the current Optometry Ireland president.



## **Dr Alison Greene**

*Ophthalmology Spr, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin*

Dr Alison Greene is a Higher Trainee in Ophthalmic Surgery with the Irish College of Ophthalmologists. She first developed an interest in sustainable healthcare while working in University Hospital Waterford during the establishment of their new high flow cataract unit in 2023. Her other interests include clinical and translational research having completed a Doctorate of Medicine in UCD in 2020.

She enjoys training others and is currently completing an MSc in Medical Education. She is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and a Fellow of the European Board of Ophthalmology.



Ms Louise Doyle

## **Ms Louise Doyle**

*Theatre Nurse, University Hospital Waterford*

Ms Louise Doyle trained as a nurse in Beaumont Hospital qualifying in 1995. She has been working in theatres since 1998 and completed her Higher Diploma in Perioperative Nursing in 2002 through Beaumont Hospital and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Louise has been working in ophthalmology theatres since 2003. She took up her current post in University Hospital Waterford in 2013 where she works across the eye and the emergency theatres.



Ms Helen Curran

## **Ms Helen Curran**

*Head of Sustainability, Specsavers UK and Ireland*

Ms Helen Curran has been working in optics for 19 years. She qualified as a dispensing optician at Glasgow Caledonian University 2014, and is currently a 2nd year student completing an Executive MBA at UCD Michael Smurfit Business School.

Helen has worked with Specsavers for 13 of those 19 years, with the last 5 years spent working in the Support Office.

As Head of Sustainability for the UK and Irish business, Helen is responsible for bringing the company's global and country specific sustainability strategy to life for partnerships and colleagues across +1000 Optical Stores, 270+ Audiology businesses and 40+ Domiciliary businesses. In the role she focuses on all aspects of sustainability, helping partners and colleagues take action to help mitigate the impact on the environment and improving the social impact on the communities Specsavers operate in and the lives of the people the company employs and serves.



Ms Aoife Doyle

## **Ms Aoife Doyle**

*Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital, Dublin; National Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology*

Ms Aoife Doyle is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and St James's Hospital in Dublin. She was appointed the Clinical Lead for the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology in 2023.

Ms Doyle has a wealth of experience in delivering ophthalmology services

including the development of the integrated cataract and glaucoma service across the RVEEH 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 RVEEH to allow all clinical information to be accessible at the point of patient care.

Ms Doyle also set up a nurse-led glaucoma assessment clinic service where patients with mild to moderate stable glaucoma are monitored in the pathway. The aim is to improve capacity for the hospital eye services to see the more complex and surgical patients and reduce waiting times, improving outcomes in glaucoma care through the collaboration of the hospital and community eyecare services.



## **Ms Sarah Spain**

*Senior Orthoptist, Roscommon Primary Care Services  
Health and Social Care Professions Lead for the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology*

Ms Sarah Spain is the Health and Social Care Professions Lead for the National Clinical Programme for Ophthalmology. She is currently working as a Senior Orthoptist in Roscommon.

Sarah graduated from The University of Liverpool in 2013. She started her career as an Orthoptist in Coleraine, moved to Fife to work as a Specialist Orthoptist in July 2014, followed by a move to Bradford Royal Infirmary in September 2015.

She completed a Professional Certificate in Glaucoma from Aston University, Birmingham in 2016. Sarah was appointed The Acute Services Lead for the Orthoptic Department in Bradford Royal Infirmary in 2018. She worked in specialist roles in glaucoma monitoring clinics, low visual aid clinics, and set-up and led the stroke-vision service whilst working at Bradford Royal Infirmary.

Sarah completed her Master's degree (MMedSci) in Vision Science and Strabismus from The University of Sheffield in 2021.



## **Ms Cathriona Ennis**

*Director of Nursing, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin*

Ms Cathriona Ennis is the Director of Nursing at the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital and a corporate member of the organisation's Hospital Management Group. She completed her nurse training in St Vincent's University Hospital and following her training worked in St. Vincent's Private Hospital for 8 years, 3 specifically in the ophthalmology department.

Cathriona was seconded from St Vincent's private hospital to do a Higher Diploma in Ophthalmic Nursing in 1994 for a 6-month period. She returned to the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital in 1995 as a Clinical Nurse Manager 2 in the outpatient's department. Cathriona has a tacit understanding of the organisation after being



in a number of senior management roles to include Night Manager, Assistant Director of Nursing and Director of Nursing.

In 2022, she completed a Master's degree in Healthcare Management. Her dissertation was titled "Developing a new ophthalmic technician grade in Ireland to improve access to care" which she will talk about in her presentation at the ICO Eye Care in Focus Conference.

Cathriona is very proud to have achieved a long service award in 2024 for 25 years' service in the organisation that has afforded her an opportunity to grow in a culture that sees nursing working at the top of its licence.



Dr Geraldine Comer

## **Dr Geraldine Comer**

*Ophthalmologist, University Hospital Galway, CHO2 West*

Dr Geraldine Comer graduated from University College Galway and completed her ophthalmic training in Waterford and Limerick, before commencing as clinical tutor in ophthalmology at UCG along with sessional work as an Ophthalmic Physician for Mayo PCCC. She subsequently worked extensively in a busy private practice in the Galway Clinic along with hospital based medical ophthalmology at Galway University Hospital (GUH).

In 2022 Dr Comer was appointed as Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist for CHO2 West.

She is involved in all aspects of medical ophthalmology. Her particular interests are community paediatric ophthalmology with a keen focus on children with additional needs.



Dr Christine Bourke

## **Dr Christine Bourke**

*Paediatric Ophthalmology Clinical Fellow, Children's Health Ireland, Temple Street and Crumlin Hospitals, Dublin*

Dr Christine Bourke graduated from UCD in 2015. She completed her basic medical ophthalmology training between Sligo, the Mater and Temple Street Hospitals and higher medical ophthalmology training across The Mater, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear and Crumlin Hospitals. In 2023/24 she undertook a clinical fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, UK.

Dr Bourke is currently an ASPIRE fellow in Paediatric Ophthalmology in CHI at Crumlin and Temple Street Hospitals. She achieved her Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training from the Irish College of Ophthalmologists in February 2024.

Dr Bourke has specialist interest in paediatric ophthalmology and medical retina.



Dr Emer Doolan

## **Dr Emer Doolan**

*Ophthalmologist, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, CHO6 and CHO7, Dublin*

Dr. Emer Doolan graduated from UCD in 2015. She completed her ophthalmology training in the Mater Hospital, Galway University Hospital, the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and Children's Health Ireland.

Dr. Doolan achieved her Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training from the Irish College of Ophthalmologists in 2023, and is currently a consultant at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, CHO6 and CHO7. She has a special interest in medical retina.



Professor John Nolan

## **Professor John Nolan**

*Founder and Director, Nutrition Research Centre Ireland; Howard Chair in Human Nutrition and Principal Investigator of the Macular Pigment Research Group, South East Technological University, Waterford*

Professor John Nolan, a Fulbright Scholar, is a full professor at the South East Technological University (SETU), Waterford, Ireland, where he holds a Howard Chair in Human Nutrition and is the Director of the Nutrition Research Centre Ireland (NRCI). His research centre studies the role of nutrition for vision, cognitive function and prevention of age-related diseases.

In 2011, Prof Nolan won a prestigious European Research Council (ERC) research grant to study the impact of nutritional supplementation on visual function via two major clinical trials (CREST 281096; Central Retinal Enrichment Supplementation Trials). As part of this ground-breaking work, Prof Nolan identified how targeted nutrition can improve visual function for the general population, and for patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

More recent studies at the NRCI have investigated the link between nutrition and brain health and function, and over the last number of years Nolan and team have published novel papers on how targeted nutrients enhance cognitive function for the general population and improve quality of life for patients suffering with Alzheimer's disease.

Prof Nolan has published 117 peer-reviewed scientific papers on his area of research (H index = 53). A major career highlight is his role as founder and Chair of the International Brain and Ocular Nutrition Conference (BON Conference), which was held at Downing College, Cambridge University ([www.bonconference.org](http://www.bonconference.org)). See [www.profjohnnolan.com](http://www.profjohnnolan.com) for further details.

# **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 provides the governance, structure and standards for postgraduate education, training and assessment.

The ICO is committed to the ongoing development and evolution of the training pathways to ensure we are producing specialists who can meet the current and future eye care needs in our population.

The delivery of healthcare requires a lifelong commitment to learning with ongoing medical education and continuing professional development as essential aspects of professional practice. The ICO's goal is to provide and support education and learning for ophthalmologists in training, in practice and those who work alongside them in the extended allied health professional team as they deliver care to patients.

The College continues to develop an extensive programme of professional development courses, educational meetings, workshops and conferences covering a wide range of clinical and non-clinical topics through the designated ICO Professional Competence Scheme.

The ICO is a registered Irish charity. Our focus is on the advancement and improvement of eye health and patient safety and to protect, enhance and promote the highest standards in the delivery of eye care.



Irish College of  
Ophthalmologists

***Eye Doctors of Ireland***

*Protecting your Vision*

**Irish College of Ophthalmologists**

121 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Telephone 01 402 2777

Web: [www.eyedoctors.ie](http://www.eyedoctors.ie) · Email: [info@eyedoctors.ie](mailto:info@eyedoctors.ie)

   @eyedoctorsirl

#EyeCareInFocus24