

**Centenary Commemoration  
of the Irish Ophthalmological Society**  
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF PROTECTING IRISH EYES



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of the Irish Ophthalmological Society**  
*Celebrating 100 Years of Protecting Irish Eyes*

Edited by CIARA KEENAN

**I make no apology in choosing history for this lecture. History is pageantry. Man does not live by bread alone; ophthalmology, like patriotism, is not enough.**

**We, as specialists, know how true it is that it is not the doctor who has the specialty, but the specialty that has the doctor, let us never forget that we are only able to see further in our specialty by climbing on the backs of the giants who went before us. Let us hush the specialty, for one moment and pause to examine what manner of men (and women) these were, what difficulties they overcame and what they achieved.**

*L.B. Somerville Large, Montgomery Lecture 1959  
The History of the Historical Development of Ophthalmology in Ireland*

# Celebrating 100 Years of Irish Ophthalmology

The year 2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the first national society for ophthalmologists in Ireland, the Irish Ophthalmological Society (IOS) founded in 1918.

**The development of an independent organisation has been a tremendous advantage for the profession. Over the century, the Society's separation from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and amalgamation with the younger Faculty of Ophthalmology to create the Irish College of Ophthalmologists in 1992, has given the profession a very strong voice.**

The following commemorative booklet celebrates this important milestone, as we reflect on the development of ophthalmology and achievements in the specialty in Ireland over the past century.

The establishment of the Irish Ophthalmological Society is credited to Irish ophthalmologist, Dr John Benjamin Storey, in 1918. This we have on the authority of the late Dr Euphan Maxwell, whose personal records and documentation remains the finest single source of information available to us on the development of our specialty and the IOS in the early to mid-20th century.

There have been many incredible advances in eye care since that time and Irish ophthalmologists have much to be proud of as we reflect on the progress made in the last 100 years. Many eye conditions, which

would have previously led to certain sight loss for patients in the past, are now manageable or preventable as a result of the significant advances in medicine and technologies.

This booklet attempts to provide a brief summary of the evolution and progress in ophthalmology and the delivery of ophthalmic services to patients in Ireland over the last number of decades. A motivation in developing the commemorative booklet was to highlight the influence the specialty has had on wider health care reforms in the interests of advancing and promoting the highest standards of patient care in Ireland.

The establishment of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists in 1992 as the Medical Council accredited postgraduate training body in Ireland for ophthalmologists ensured that a structure to deliver the highest standards of excellence in training and professionalism of the specialty was formalised.

The ICO has successfully forged its own unique path in postgraduate education; overseeing national training programmes in both medical and surgical ophthalmology and is the professional and representative body for eye doctors in Ireland.

During this time, the College has developed and matured into the organisation it is today, and our focus remains on continued evolution in response to the eye care needs of our



population. We hope you enjoy reading the following accounts, which attempt to give a snapshot of some of the most significant and enduring contributions our specialty has made to healthcare advances in Ireland.

We sincerely thank ICO Communications Manager, Ciara Keenan, for the compilation and editing of this booklet and to our many colleagues who contributed and gave generously of their time in the collation of material over the past year. Much insight was gained through conversations and access to archival material. We acknowledge our absolute limitations in fully capturing all that was achieved in the period, and that our account is by no means exhaustive.

Many members will have personal recollections and experience of the more recent historical accounts included and we hope to inspire the next generation of young ophthalmologists in our reflection on the achievements of our founding members. It is sometimes only when we look back on history that we can fully appreciate just how far we have come, and aspire to further great achievements as we look to the future!

*With warmest regards,*

**Dr ALISON BLAKE**

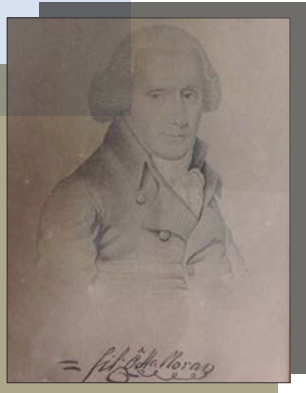
*President*

*Irish College of Ophthalmologists*

**2018**

# Brief Insight into Influential Irish figures in Ophthalmology in Centuries Past

Image courtesy of Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital



Limerick man Dr Sylvester O'Halloran, born in Caherdavin on 31st December 1728, is revered as the pioneer of the “modern” cataract operation.

His passionate commitment to education, research and surgical skills marked him out from his contemporaries. In 1750 he

published ‘A New Treatise on Glaucoma, or Cataract in Ireland’.

He had been very impressed while in France with the Académie Royale de Chirurgie, which had been founded in Paris in 1731. Sylvester O'Halloran's ‘Proposals for the Advancement of Surgery in Ireland’ and his driving enthusiasm were directly responsible for the establishment of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1784.



Dr Henry Rosborough Swanzy.  
Image courtesy of The Board of Trinity College Dublin



## THE BEGINNING:

*Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom (OSUK) Ophthalmology Congress, held in Dublin in 1912 at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. This surviving photograph shows Sir Robert Montgomery present, wearing his trademark bowler hat. Photo courtesy of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital*

# Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom

Irish ophthalmologists, among them Dr John Benjamin Storey and Dr Henry Rosborough Swanzy, were instrumental in founding the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom (OSUK) in 1880.

Sir Henry Swanzy served as President of the OSUK from 1897-99, followed by Dr John Benjamin Storey from 1918-20, an elevation also attained by Irish Ophthalmologists Dr LB Somerville Large (1962-64) and Louis B Werner (1973-75).

## THE ROYAL VICTORIA EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL



*Dr William Wilde.  
Courtesy of National  
Gallery of Ireland*

The Dublin Eye and Ear Hospital Act established the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in 1897, with the amalgamation of the National Eye Hospital founded in 1814 by Dr Isaac Ryall, and St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital for Diseases of the Eye and Ear founded by Dr Sir William Wilde in 1844.

The campaign was spearheaded by ophthalmologist Dr Sir Henry Rosborough Swanzy (1843-1913), regarded as a giant of Irish ophthalmology of this era alongside

Jacob, Wilde and Storey. Along with the decision to merge the hospitals, expansion was provided for in the Act. In 1899, a site was purchased on Adelaide Road, where the current Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital was constructed.

On 18 February 1904, all patients were transferred from the National Eye Hospital and St Mark's Hospital to the new eye hospital on Adelaide Road. The Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital was modelled on a hospital in Utrecht in the Netherlands regarded at that time as the most modern eye hospital in Europe having been erected in 1894. At the turn of the twentieth century, it was still commonplace for surgeons to work in the combined role of eye, ear and throat specialist. It was not until circa 1910 that the separation of the two specialties took place.

## Dr Arthur Jacob



*Arthur Jacob PRSCI 1837, 1864.  
Picture courtesy of the Royal  
College of Surgeons in Ireland*

Dr Arthur Jacob was another figure of immense importance in ophthalmology in 19th Century Ireland.

Jacob founded two Eye Hospitals, The Institute for the Curing of Diseases of the Eye in 1817 and The Ophthalmic Hospital in 1828.

## IRISH OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The OSUK continued to hold meetings every year in different cities in the United Kingdom. By 1917 with the advent of the Great War and with German U-Boats sinking over 600,000 tons of shipping every month, Ireland and continental Europe were effectively cut off from Great Britain.

As a result, Dr John Benjamin Storey, Dr Louis Werner, Dr Herbert Mooney, Dr Harris Tompkin and their Irish colleagues started their own meetings, and became the Irish Ophthalmological Society in 1918.



# Celebrating our Centenary 1918 – 2018: A Step Back in Time

Ireland's first national society for ophthalmologists, the **Irish Ophthalmological Society** was founded in 1918. The establishment of the IOS is credited to Irish ophthalmologist, Dr John Benjamin Storey

1918

The first president of the IOS was Dr Arthur Wellesley Sandford who was influential in establishing the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in Cork, which opened in 1897. He was Vice-President of the Ophthalmic Society of the United Kingdom (OSUK) in 1902-05, and Professor of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology in University College Cork.



*Photo Dr John Benjamin Storey PRCSI 1918-1920 (image courtesy of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland). Founder of the Irish Ophthalmological Society in 1918. Dr Storey served as President of the OSUK 1918-20, an elevation attained by only three other Irishmen, one of them Henry Swanzy. Almost certainly, the prospect of this honorary office underlined for Storey the lack of an equivalent society in Ireland, prompting him to found the IOS in 1918. He was elected President of the IOS from 1921-23*

1919

In 1919 the IOS rejoined the OSUK and Dr John Benjamin Storey was elected President of the OSUK, however the IOS continued to hold its own annual meetings. Ophthalmologist Dr Charles Edward Fitzgerald was President of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland in 1916-18.

## INAUGURAL MONTGOMERY LECTURE

**Of great significance to the specialty of ophthalmology at this time was the establishment of the Montgomery Lecture in 1916. 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.**

He established the prize with £5000 pounds, a large sum but with few conditions bar insertion

of the name "Mary Louisa Prentice" in its title and that it should rotate between Trinity College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

The Montgomery Lecture was the first medical lecture founded in Trinity College Dublin. Through this lectureship, the small Montgomery family have retained their influence in ophthalmology and the name of Robert Montgomery has become widely known, particularly in contemporary ophthalmology, alongside other ophthalmological luminaries such as Dr Arthur Jacob and Dr William Wilde.



*Dr Robert Montgomery*

Initially the lecture was given as a research lecture by early career ophthalmologists but since the Second World War, it has been delivered by the leading figures in ophthalmology from both Ireland and abroad and including neurologists, behavioural scientists and molecular ophthalmologists, to the immeasurable advantage of Irish ophthalmology.



# The Dublin Ophthalmic Club

1928

In 1928 the Dublin Ophthalmic Club was founded. It was originally named the Dublin Junior Ophthalmological Club.

## DR EUPHAN MONTGOMERIE MAXWELL AND THE DUBLIN OPHTHALMIC CLUB

Dr Euphan Montgomerie Maxwell, the first female ophthalmic surgeon in Ireland and the daughter of Dr Patrick William Maxwell, was amongst the most notable influential female figures in ophthalmological circles in Ireland in the past century.

In June 1915, Euphan Maxwell was appointed to the Montgomery Lectureship in Ophthalmology by the Board of Trinity College Dublin and delivered the inaugural Montgomery Lecture in 1916 on 'Diagnosis in Uveitis'. Dr Maxwell became a member of the Irish Ophthalmological Society when it was founded in 1918. She delivered the Montgomery Lecture in that same year to the School of Physics, Trinity College Dublin on the topic "A survey of cases of concomitant squint in the practice of the late Mr P. W. Maxwell".

On October 20, 1943, Dr Maxwell presented a paper on

the proceedings of the Dublin Ophthalmic Club since its foundation, providing an invaluable insight into the major developments and priorities for the specialty at that time.

In her introduction, Dr Maxwell surmised:

*"I submit that in the intervening period it has justified its existence in holding "as 'twere the mirror up to" recent advances and modern trends in ophthalmology. It has moreover served, on more than one occasion, as a spring board for subsequent more strenuous efforts which might otherwise never have been made, or at least suffered delay in the making."*

The 1930s saw the electric ophthalmoscope replace a model based on the use of candles as a light source. The development of the ophthalmoscope at this time, half a century ahead of X-rays or biochemistry, gave ophthalmology that commanding lead which it has never lost as an exact science.

*Names synonymous with clinical advances in ophthalmology in this era include **DR LOUIS WERNER JUNIOR**, for the introduction of the slit-lamp to the eye department, successful corneal grafting with **DR JOHN B. McAREAVEY**, neuro-ophthalmology with **DR ALAN MOONEY** and the extermination of trachoma with **DR FRANCIS S. LAVERY**.*



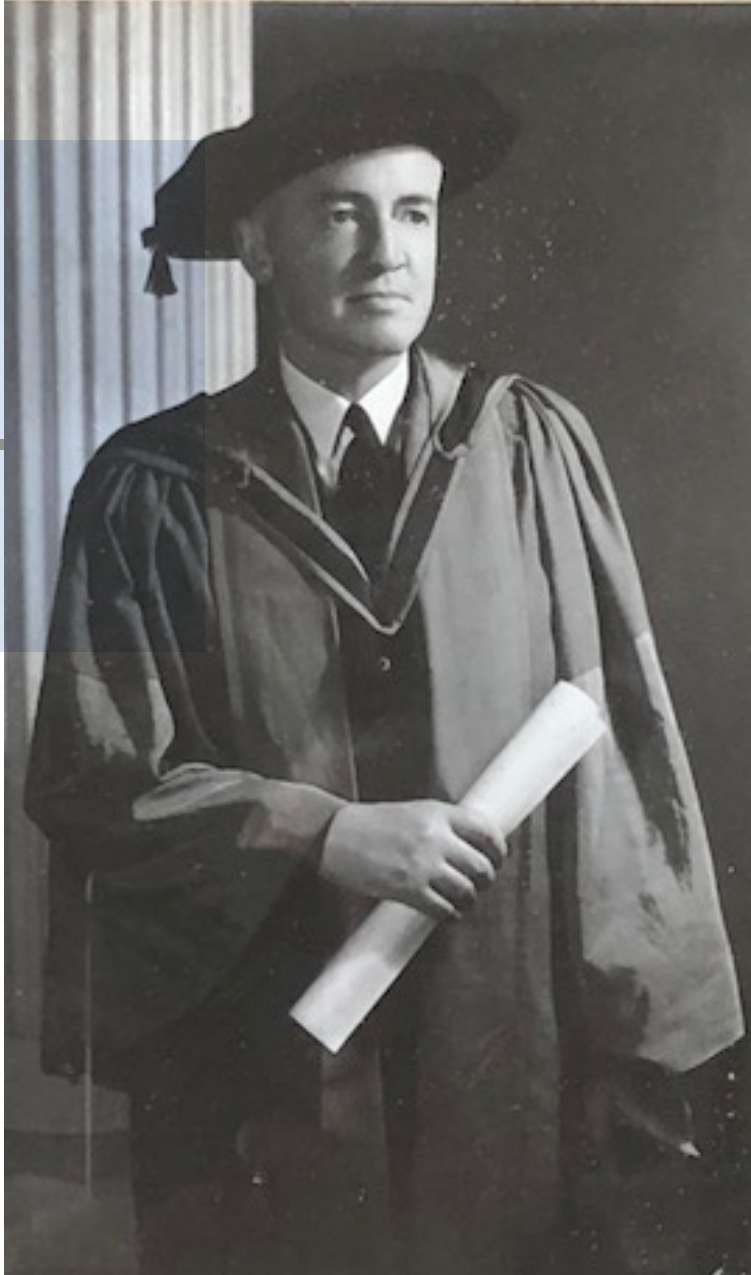
*Image of candle-lit ophthalmoscope  
by The Wellcome Trust*

# 1930

The earliest fragment in the Irish Ophthalmological Society's archives is a calendar of the session 1930-31, when meetings were held in Dublin, Belfast and Cork and membership of the IOS stood at forty-seven. Twenty-four of these were original IOS members, highlighting an intensive and active first twelve years of the Society when foundation membership was viewed as a prized possession.

The first extant IOS meeting minutes date from 1933 when six cases of detached retina corrected by operation, two of them by Swiss ophthalmologist Dr Jules Gonin's method, were found worthy of record. Council minutes reveal that during this period, routine work in

the Dublin eye hospital was proceeding apace, with increased numbers year on year receiving treatment. Clinical advances of this decade saw the introduction of the slit lamp to the eye department, which was invented by Allvar Gullstrand in 1917.



*Dr Francis S. Lavery receiving MCh in Ophthalmology*

# Dr Francis S. Lavery: Control and Extermination of Trachoma in Ireland

**1930**

**Dr Francis S. Lavery, a member of the Montgomery family, presented the Montgomery Lecture in 1930 on the distribution and control of trachoma in the Irish Free State. The implementation of his measures would ultimately lead to the extermination of trachoma in Ireland.**

Dr Lavery was the first Professor of Ophthalmology in the Irish Free State and his work carried out some 88 years ago remains relevant to the present day. He introduced the first ophthalmoscope into Ireland and was also a pioneer of orthoptics in Ireland.

*A marked improvement in the results of eye operations of all kinds in the decades spanning 1920 to 1940 can be attributed partly to an increased efficiency in **ASEPSIS, ANTISEPSIS AND IN ANAESTHESIA** both local and general to various modifications, which have enriched the old well-established operations. Two such modifications included **JAMESON'S MUSCLE RECESSIONAL FOR SQUINT** in 1934 and **BLASKOVICS' OPERATION FOR PTOSIS** in 1935.*

Trachoma was still strongly prevalent in Ireland at this time, and especially in poorer parts of Dublin.

Dr Lavery's investigations in several orphanage institutions at the time revealed that a significant number of children were suffering from the disease. He undertook an experiment with the assistance of the nuns in charge, segregating the children with trachoma and demonstrating the required good hygiene to decrease cross infection and how to apply copper sulphate drops.

Following the implementation of these measures, over a short period, Dr Lavery recorded a decrease of more than 70% in the incidence of new cases of trachoma.

Francis S. Lavery went on to encourage

the extension of school inspection and the establishment of specialist institutions for the segregation and treatment of children suffering from trachoma.

Considering the era in Ireland, there is no doubt this was a most innovative undertaking and beyond its time. The inclusion of trachoma amongst the notifiable diseases in 1941 is a direct outcome of this work.

Dr Lavery's location of the main foci of contagion in the orphanages and industrial schools would enable the disease to be dealt with from a preventative angle. Due to improvements in health and hygiene, as indicated by Francis S. Lavery, the final elimination of trachoma was achieved in Ireland by the end of the 1940s.

## FIRST SURGERIES FOR DETACHED RETINA IN IRELAND

Dr Jules Gonin's operating method for detached retina was introduced in 1925. In the early 1900s, only one in 1000 retinal detachments were reattached by a variety of techniques ranging from strict bed rest to injection of toxic chemicals into the subretinal fluid. The discovery by the famous Swiss ophthalmologist in his research between 1903 and 1918 that closure of the retinal break by 'ignipuncture' took years to be accepted, despite achieving 63% reattachment (published in 1931). The technique was difficult but made easier and more successful with the introduction between 1947 and 1965 of the indirect ophthalmoscope, careful mapping of the breaks, cryopexy and scleral buckling with implants and explants and remains the method used by many retinal surgeons achieving over 90% success after one operation.

In 1937 Dr Francis S. Lavery surveyed the results of detached retina cases operated upon during the previous five years, and noted that towards the end of this period the combined Larrson-Safar method of coagulation of the choroid by surface cauterisation had become the operation of choice.

# Dr L.B. Somerville Large



*The late L. B. Somerville-Large, for many years inspired organizer of the IOS, seen in  
Rome with Charles Saper, Librarian of the House Ophthalmological Library, in 1965.*

## 1934

The inaugural Montgomery Lecture was delivered by Dr Euphan Montgomerie Maxwell in 1916. However, it was not until the time of L.B. Somerville-Large as Secretary of the IOS in 1934 that the Society was entrusted with the responsibility of nominating potential Montgomery Lecturers, a charge previously protected by the academic bodies of Trinity College Dublin and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Somerville-Large successfully argued the case that on ophthalmic topics, the Irish Ophthalmological Society was best placed to recommend choice of speaker and expert in their field of specialty. The academic bodies were swayed, and happy to retain their prestige as sponsors of the Lecture, which remains the case to this day, with agreement to rotate the Lecture every five years between their institutions.

A significant consequence of this autonomy for the IOS would come in 1939 when Professor Karl Lindner of Vienna delivered the Montgomery Lecture, the first time a lecturer had been invited from outside Ireland or Britain. The practice of attracting world-leading experts in the field of ophthalmology

has prevailed, and the Lecture continues to be a highlight of the ICO annual calendar.

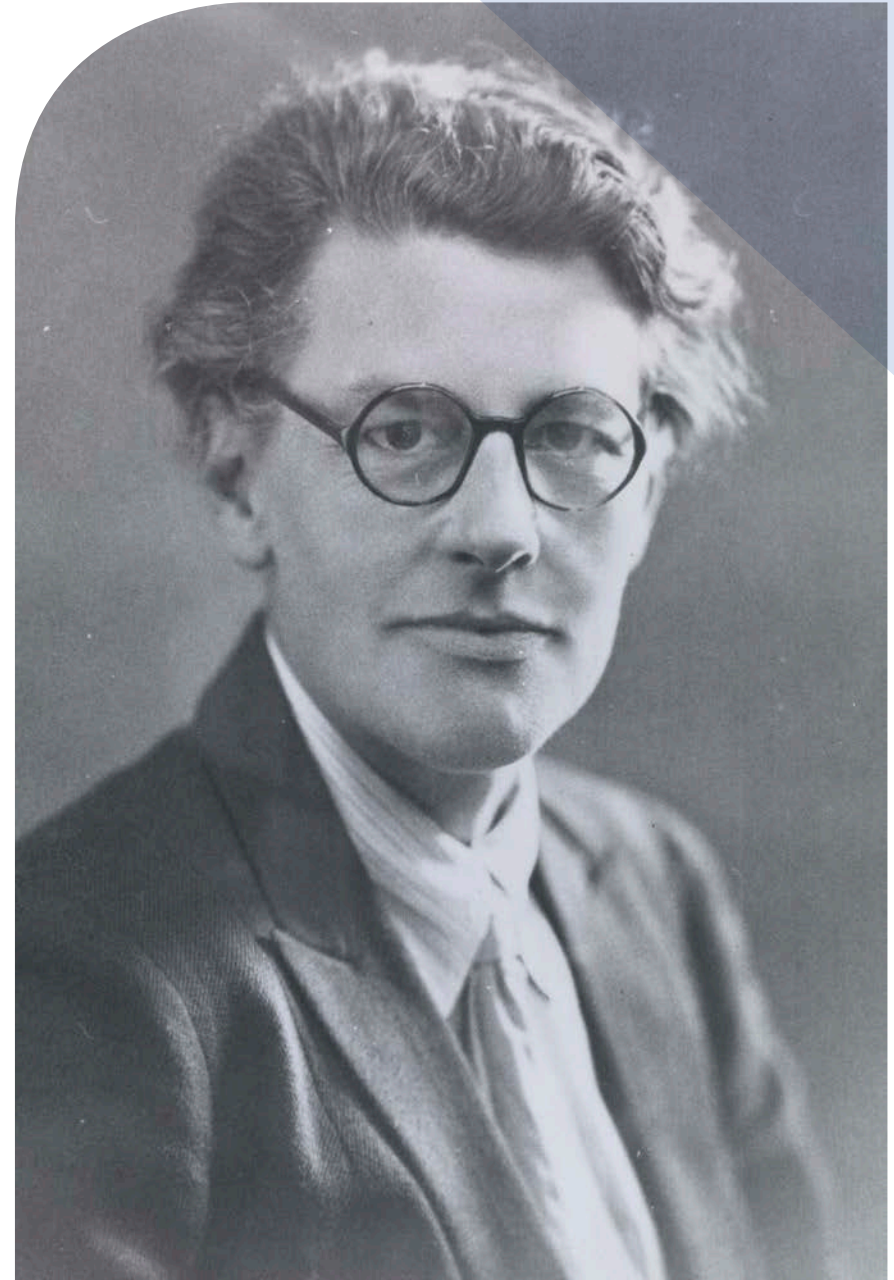
A significant increase in membership of the Society took place during this period, and a distinct Irish identity in ophthalmology became more apparent. Somerville-Large was later elected President of the IOS (1961-62) and became President of the OSUK in 1962. This was a rare honour for an Irishman, and one achieved by only one other citizen from when Ireland had moved to the status of a Republic, Dr Louis E. Werner, who took the office in 1974. Somerville Large and Werner would join their predecessors Henry Swanzy and John B. Storey in history as Irish ophthalmologists acknowledged for their immense contribution to the specialty by the United Kingdom.

1928, Euphan M Maxwell. Photo courtesy of The Board of Trinity College Dublin

# 1939

**Dr Euphan Maxwell was elected President of the IOS from 1939-1941.**

**In 1943, she wrote a paper summarising the proceedings of the Dublin Ophthalmic Club since its foundation in January 1929, which she presented to fellow members at a meeting on October 30, 1943. This recording of events has provided the ophthalmic community with an indispensable insight into the key developments taking place in the specialty at that time.**



## 1940s

The most significant development in medicine during the 1940s was the dawn of the antibiotics age and the use of penicillin and streptomycin to treat infections.

### 1942

The new conception of reducing ocular hypertension by cyclo-diathermy was brought to the notice of the Irish medical community in the first instance by Dr Francis S. Lavery who demonstrated a successful result in a patient at a meeting in 1942.

### 1943

The first honorary membership of the IOS was awarded to Prof A.J. Ballantyne from Glasgow in 1943. It is a distinction rarely given and only four honorary members of the Irish Ophthalmological Society are on record.

In addition to Ballantyne, Prof Emeritus Bernard Samuels (New York) was elected in 1947; Dr Frank Walsh (Baltimore) in 1965 and Dr David Cogan (Boston) in 1965.

### 1949

In 1949 ophthalmic surgeon Sir Harold Ridley inserted the first Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) in a cataract patient at St Thomas' Hospital, London.



*The International Standard for penicillin, the first antibiotic, was set in 1944 at an Anglo-American meeting. One of the samples is an example of a British Standard of penicillin and is dated 1946. Image by Science Museum, London, The Wellcome Collection*



*Dr A.J.B Goldsmith (London),  
Dr E.F King (London) and Dr L.E. Werner (Dublin)  
in attendance at the IOS joint meeting with the  
OSUK in April, 1952*

## 1952 IOS host a Joint Meeting with the OSUK in Dublin

It was during this decade that the emergence of the Society on the international scene was cemented, when in April 1952 the IOS hosted a joint meeting with the OSUK in Dublin. This occasion resulted in the new membership to the IOS of prominent British ophthalmologists. The meeting opened with a short speech by the OSUK President, in which he welcomed Dr Euphan Maxwell, the only participant of the former Congress of the OSUK in 1912 in Dublin, who was present.

This initial joint venture was followed by a joint meeting with the British Society of Neuro-Surgeons in 1956 and with the British Diabetic Society in 1963. The concept of this amalgamation came from ophthalmic surgeon Mr Alan Mooney who was President of the IOS at the time, and his unwavering personal commitment to these events ensured they would be remembered as distinguished landmarks in the history of the IOS.

## 1955

### Dr Gerhard Meyer-Schwickerath - Retinal Photocoagulation Surgery

At an IOS meeting in Dublin in 1955, German ophthalmologist Dr Gerhard Meyer-Schwickerath, captivated the attendees with his theory and application of his new approach to retinal detachment. Light coagulation was successfully used by Meyer-Schwickerath in 1949 to treat a retinal detachment and in 1954 it was used to treat diabetic retinopathy. Meyer-Schwickerath would subsequently earn worldwide recognition for the invention and as an innovator of light coagulation, a line of thought culminating in laser. His presentation in Dublin of the paper in 1955 was the first occasion he had discussed the theory outside of Germany and Meyer-Schwickerath would later credit the opportunity as the platform which secured international recognition of his application.

It was superseded by the Meyer-Schwickerath xenon arc photocoagulator, followed by Dr Patrick O'Malley in 1973 who published his invention of the portable xenon arc photocoagulator. Dr Morton Goldberg first reported using xenon arc in 1971 for sickle cell retinopathy and Mr Patrick Condon in 1974 published on a larger series of sickle retinopathy cases using the O'Malley portable xenon arc photocoagulator.



1957

## Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology Established

Influenced by the establishment of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists in the UK in 1946, Mr Frank McAuley created an Irish Faculty of Ophthalmologists to negotiate on behalf of the profession. Its main role was to safeguard the standards and conditions of ophthalmic practice in Ireland.

The Irish Faculty met the same resistance as had its British counterpart, with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland refusing to grant ophthalmology a seat as a right on the Council, although ophthalmology had left the other branches of surgery way behind in both research and development.

Inevitably, this created a convincing case for a marriage of the IOS with the Faculty to form a new Irish College of Ophthalmologists, which would not take effect for another two decades, in 1992.

**DR PHILOMENA GUINAN** is credited with introducing laser technology as a central tool for eye surgery in Ireland in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

*This followed Philomena Guinan's time as a young ophthalmologist in Germany where she worked for Displaced Persons with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation (UNRRA) and where she would befriend ophthalmologist Gerhard Meyer-Schwicherath.*

*Philomena Guinan introduced the technique to Ireland and was subsequently invited to lecture in Boston and San Francisco on what was then ground-breaking surgery. Many diabetic eye conditions have been saved by this work.*

*In 1977-1979 Dr Philomena Guinan served as President of the IOS. Among the prizes awarded to Dr Guinan throughout her career were the World Health Fellowship and the Somerville-Large award.*



1958

In 1958, the Irish Ophthalmological Society participated with a number of other ophthalmological societies, national and regional, in presenting a souvenir album to Sir Stewart Duke Elder on the occasion of his 60th birthday. The album consisted of a double page of illuminated vellum in the manner of ancient manuscripts, such as The Book of Kells.

The nurturing of relationships with our international counterparts would continue strongly throughout the 1960s.

# 1960 Developments in Glaucoma Surgery: Trabeculectomy

Although the majority of glaucoma surgeries used in modern day Ireland were introduced in the 1960s, their roots can be traced back to the work of surgeons in the 19th century.

The first glaucoma related surgical procedure was carried out in 1856, when Dr Albrecht von Graefe discovered that an iridectomy was an effective surgical method for the treatment of acute glaucoma. Two years later, Louis de Wecker presented sclerotomy as a procedure for chronic glaucoma.

Trabeculectomy, in use since the mid-1960s, is the most effective glaucoma surgery in terms of

intraocular pressure reduction but brings with it its own limitations. Unlike cataract surgery, where a transformative paradigm change occurred with the introduction of phacoemulsification, trabeculectomy surgery has undergone a series of small but important augmentations since its original debut in the 1960s by Dr John Edward Cairns.

These include the confirmation of the superior location as the safer site for surgery, the addition of antimetabolites to suppress wound healing, the optimisation of antimetabolite application time and concentration, the preferential use of fornix-based conjunctival incisions, the utilisation of smaller punch trabeculectomies, as well as

the addition of adjustable scleral flap sutures to titrate post-operative flow – all contributing to the enhanced safety and efficacy profile of modern day trabeculectomy surgery.

The search for an alternative to trabeculectomy surgery still continues. As far back as 1932, ciliodestruction was suggested and it continues in its modern format with cyclodiode laser and more recently endo-cyclo-photocoagulation (ECP) laser, where a fibreoptic cable allows for direct viewing of the ciliary processes and more targeted destruction than the extraocular application. However, despite advances, the difficulties in titrating this type of destructive procedure remain.

*A joint meeting of the IOS and the **NEW ENGLAND OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN BOSTON IN 1965** was the culmination of a memorable US tour that had been inspired by a notable New Englander, Dr David Cogan, and a significant highlight for IOS members.*

*The meeting would also result in the invitation by the IOS to the New England Ophthalmological Society members to join the **IOS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN DUBLIN IN MAY 1967**. As home to many of Irish descent, the occasion had a heartfelt sense of a homecoming of*

*sorts for many who attended from the Bostonian Society. The occasion held the added prestige and honour for the IOS to welcome the elite of European ophthalmologists from the **COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**, and to honour Mr Louis Werner, their President at the time, and President of the IOS in 1967. The aspiration was that the IOS links with continental European ophthalmology would grow steadily stronger in the future. Dr David Cogan was elected as an honorary member of the Society, a distinction only shared with one other former Montgomery Lecturer at that time, Dr Frank Walsh.*

# Emergence of First Experimental Antivirals

## 1960s

The first experimental antivirals were developed in the 1960s, mostly to deal with herpes viruses, and were found using traditional trial-and-error drug discovery methods. It was not until the 1980s that researchers would begin to learn how viruses worked in detail, and exactly what chemicals were needed to prevent their reproductive cycle. The ophthalmologist would become involved in the treatment of severe ocular infections caused by herpes viruses, including the acute retinal necrosis syndrome, which is caused by herpes viruses. The use of antivirals in treatment of herpes in the 1970s and 1980s resulted in a significant reduction in cases of patient blindness.

## 1966

### Establishment of the National Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory and Registry of Ireland

Under the management and directorship of Dr Joan Mullaney following her appointment as full-time pathologist to the Hospital in 1964, the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Pathology Department was elevated to national status as the National Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory and Registry of Ireland. The achievement is testament to the dedication of Joan Mullaney to her specialty. She went on to be appointed as specialist moderator for the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Histological Classification of Tumours during her distinguished career.

## 1969



*1969 IOS Meeting at the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Cork*

# New Corneal Clinic Established

The first complete corneal transplants for patients in Ireland took place following establishment of the Corneal Clinic at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in the 1970s. Prior to this corneal grafts would have been performed on patients in Ireland, however these were rudimentary in nature, and often with post-surgical complication. Prof Louis Collum was the first surgeon to perform corneal transplants at the new Corneal Clinic, following specific sub specialty corneal training in Liverpool.

There have been significant advances in the procedure in recent years, with techniques improving due to developments in surgical skills. The most widely used treatment for corneal eye disease is cornea

transplantation (keratoplasty) where the diseased or scarred corneal tissue is replaced with healthy tissue from an organ donor, however rejection by the patient's immune system is still possible and patients must be monitored accordingly.

On Tuesday June 7, 2016, the first corneal limbal stem cell transplant was performed in Ireland by ophthalmic surgeon Prof William Power. While this technique has been available in a number of other countries, this marks the first time this treatment option becomes available in Ireland.

The transplantation of cultured limbal stem cells is one of only a few examples of the successful clinical use of adult stem cell therapy in patients.

*One of the most significant developments of this decade was the emergence of the **OPERATING MICROSCOPE** which required huge skill by the ophthalmologist and was instrumental in the advancement of diagnostic technique. It was the first time cameras were part of the equipment (slit lamps), meaning a recording rather than the prior method of physical paintings and drawings following an examination was possible. The development also meant there was now a record for research and training of students.*

## 1970

In 1970 Dr Robert Macheimer performed the first pars plana vitrectomy, soon to be followed by the availability of Dr Conor O'Malley's pneumatic 20g Ocutome. The invention of an electro-mechanical vitreous cutter was published in 1975 by Dr Charles Maguire in Belfast. 20g pars plana vitrectomy techniques were introduced to Ireland by Dr Philip Cleary and Dr Charles Maguire between 1975 and 1981. Posterior segment microsurgery rapidly developed, and the majority of retinal detachments are now repaired via 20g, 23g, 25g or 27g vitrectomy operations using gas and silicone oil tamponade, endo- and indirect laser, intraocular scissors and forceps, and perfluorocarbon liquids. Considering all methods, primary repair success rates of 95% to 99% are achieved by the fourteen retinal surgeons in Ireland.

## 1972

The Diabetic Retinopathy Study commenced and the first publications were in 1981, establishing laser photocoagulation for treatment of diabetic retinopathy.

In 1976 Prof Desmond Archer published on animal model experimental use of laser in vein occlusion and established basic science retinal vascular research in Belfast which continues as a very active laboratory today with many international publications.

# Royal Academy of Medicine Section of Ophthalmology

1974

In 1974 the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI) established the Section of Ophthalmology, which encourages junior doctors to submit clinical papers for presentation at biannual meetings (spring and winter).

The forum is recognised as an effective platform enabling greater integration of young ophthalmologists with their experienced colleagues in the specialty and fosters an environment of appreciation of all levels during training years.



RAMI meeting in the Mater  
MISERICORDIA Hospital  
Belfast in 1983

**THE ROYAL VICTORIA EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED** was established in 1974. The Foundation has had a particular interest in patients with various forms of inherited and retinal diseases and a premier centre for the clinical characterisation of patients with a variety of inherited retinal diseases including, retinitis pigmentosa

(RP), choroideraemia, Stargardt Disease and X-linked retinoschisis, amongst many others. In collaboration with the **OCULAR GENETICS UNIT AT TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN**, the Research Foundation has been active in identifying large Irish families with forms of retinitis pigmentosa. To date, this collaboration has resulted in the

identification of a number of genes including rhodopsin, peripherin/RDS and the mitochondrial gene responsible for some of these inherited retinopathies. Other projects include research into macular degeneration, the adverse effects of cigarette smoking on the retina, the corneal stem cell project and micro-RNA profiling.

1978

## First Permanent Contract for Community Ophthalmologists

A delegation of members from the Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology and Irish Ophthalmological Society, led by Noel Reilly of the Irish Medical Organisation, met with then Minister for Health, Charles J Haughey and negotiated the first permanent contract for community ophthalmologists.

The new grade was implemented by the Health Boards within a year providing eye doctors with improved working facilities in their clinics and permanent contracts with the health service.

1981



*Irish-American-Bavarian Ophthalmologists, Munich 22-23 May, 1981*

## INAUGURAL BARBARA KNOX MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Inaugural Barbara Knox Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr G. Mackey, a reader in Traffic Studies from the University of Birmingham on the topic of “Eye Injuries and the Windscreen” in 1974.

The National Council for the Blind in Ireland was founded in 1931 with Barbara Knox as its first organising Secretary. The Barbara Knox Medal is awarded at the

ICO Annual Conference in recognition of the best submitted presentation.

The first medal was awarded in 1974 to Dr Mackey who presented a paper highlighting that one of the most serious disabilities which a car occupant is likely to receive in an otherwise survivable collision is damage to the eyes. He illustrated the two different types of glass available for windscreens, and

that the use of toughened glass was still the norm in Europe at that time due to its cheaper cost than the alternative high penetration resistant laminated glass. Research findings in both Europe and North America had shown that laminated glass causes fewer and less severe injuries than toughened glass. Dr Mackay advocated two immediate courses of action. Firstly, that every

move should be made to encourage greater use of seat belts, and secondly, that the fitting of laminated glass windscreens also be supported if necessary with appropriate legislation. It would take another decade before a ban on toughened glass in favour of laminated glass was finally introduced in Ireland in 1986, following heavy lobbying by Irish ophthalmologists.

## 1980s

The first contracts for consultants were introduced in the 1980s, referred to as the Common Contract.

### REGIONAL DEPARTMENTS

*The decade of the 1980s saw the development of designated eye departments at regional hospitals. Up to this point, regional hospitals had departments for eyes and only visiting ophthalmologists. Instead of having one consultant, hospitals now had three, meaning doctors had cover for the first time.*

*The purpose was to ensure equity of service throughout the country and for training to be possible in regional locations, not just the Dublin eye hospital departments. As university towns, Galway and Cork were the first to receive their ophthalmologists and eye departments. The practice of visiting ophthalmologists to the remaining regional hospitals would continue until the eye departments at the other main regional hospitals opened.*

## 1980

IOS Meeting at Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Cork, 1980



## 1985

1985 The Egyptian Irish Ophthalmological Congress takes place from March 17-19 in Cairo, Egypt.

During the previous twenty years, international meetings with colleagues in Britain, America, Holland, Belgium and Germany had proven to be a fertile source of inspiration for members of the IOS. 1985 marked the breaking of new ground in this area, when for the first time, a group of Irish ophthalmologists, led by IOS President Dr Joan Mullaney and Secretary Mr Louis Collum, visited the continent of Africa. The occasion was the Egyptian / Irish Ophthalmological Congress held in Cairo.

# Developments in Cataract Surgery

Cataract surgery has changed most dramatically in the century to date. Intracapsular cataract extract was new in 1918, extracapsular surgery developed in the 1980s and phacoemulsification, the surgery of choice today, became popular in the 1990s.

This last development meant that lens extraction could be carried out through a small incision, and provoked the evolution of foldable lenses which could be inserted through the same small incision. This means there is minimal disruption to the eye's integrity while ensuring maximal refractive correction. It is a micro surgical technique with a high success rate for patients.

Phacoemulsification for cataract surgery was first introduced to an audience in Ireland by Dr Robert Drews, President of the International Intraocular Implant Club and Dr Donald L. Praegers in May 1982. The visiting surgeons from the US discussed the concept of using sodium hyaluronate (Healon) during cataract surgery and the technique of YAG capsulotomy at a Lens Implant and Phaco meeting at the Regional Eye Department in Waterford.

*Irish ophthalmic surgeon Mr Patrick Condon was a forerunner in bringing the phacoemulsification technique to Ireland. Mr Condon visited surgeon Dr Charles Kelman in New York, who first introduced his technique of phaco in 1967, where he observed surgeries as well as later bringing Dr Kelman to Ireland in the mid-1980s. Mr Patrick Condon also worked with Professor Eric Arnott in London who promoted the phaco technique in the UK in the 70s using the original Cavitron phacoemulsifier.*

A series of phaco workshops coordinated with visiting US surgeons took place in Waterford Hospital the 1980s. The success of the course resulted in a complete renewed interest in phacoemulsification cataract surgery. In 1989, a visit by Irish surgeons to the Gimbel Cataract Centre, Calgary, Ontario, Canada was arranged as part of a visit to the American Academy meeting in the US that year with the purpose of learning more about phacoemulsification techniques. In Calgary, Canada, they

observed operations by Dr Howard Gimbel who first described the technique of capsulorhexis. The development of capsulorhexis and lens implants were key to phacoemulsification going mainstream, following years of heavy opposition. It was recorded that all 44 cases seen had local anaesthetics and were operated on as day case patients. Dr Gimbel's unique skills were appreciated by all members of the IOS group who returned to Ireland with a resolve to integrate phacoemulsification into their routine cataract techniques. Significant interest was generated further by the formation of the Irish American Ophthalmological Society at their first annual meeting formed by Dr John Kearney and Mr Patrick Condon, which featured presentations by a number of young US surgeons in the "Top Gun" phaco course.

This exposure to the top US and Canadian phaco surgeons provided the initiative for many Irish surgeons to change from the standard extra capsular cataract extraction and to adopt these techniques. It also resulted in a number of visiting surgeons to the unit in Waterford to observe surgery and participate in organised phaco workshops.

## VOLK LENS

*The development of the Volk lens (90-diopter lens) during this decade was also of great significance. The Volk lens enabled the ophthalmologist to use both eyes to see the retina. Using both eyes meant a depth perception that was not possible before this device in examinations. The Volk lens features patented double aspheric glass optics that provides enhanced imaging of the retina.*

## YAG LASER

*The 1980s also saw the introduction of the Yag laser which allows doctors to break membrane without penetrating the eye, often nicknamed the Star Wars technique. Following a visit by Irish surgeons to a laser course by Dr Franz Fankhauser in Switzerland, who developed YAG laser technology for capsulotomy, the Waterford based charity Irish Fight for Sight charity raised the finances through their "Sail Around Ireland" project to help provide YAG laser equipment for the centres in Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Waterford.*



# Evolution of Irish Ophthalmological Society and Irish Faculty of

## 1985 -1992

In the seven year period between 1985 - 1992, significant efforts were made to ensure the success of the proposed Irish College of Ophthalmologists (ICO).

The negotiations that took place between the Irish Faculty and the IOS were complex, requiring much time and perseverance including the drafting of the articles and memorandum of the ICO, the responsibility of which were undertaken by Mr Patrick Condon and Mr Peter Barry, in conjunction with solicitors. In addition, ophthalmologists involved with the last Council of the IOS and the first Council of the ICO including Mr Robert Acheson, Mr Roger Bowell, Mr Frank McAuley, Prof Peter Eustace, Dr Gerard O'Reilly, Mr Patrick Hayes, Mr Brendan Young, Mr John Nolan, Mr Paul Moriarty and Prof Philip Cleary, were intensely involved in the transition process.

## LAMINATED GLASS WINDSCREENS LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF SEATBELT LEGISLATION

*The petitioning and lobbying efforts by Irish ophthalmologists during the 1980s for the outlawing of toughened glass in car windscreens and the importance of the enforcement in Ireland of compulsory seat belt wearing (enacted in 1979 but with poor compliance rates) was instrumental in influencing the introduction of regulation concerning the manufacture of windscreens in 1986.*

*Research carried out by consultant ophthalmic surgeon, Mr John Blake highlighted to the Irish government that the natural progression of a sudden impact virtually assured that the head of a front-seat car passenger would hit the windscreen, smash through it and end up with their eyes on or level with the window fitting and the remaining shards of glass. The surgeon's definitive paper on the subject was published in the British Medical Journal in 1983.*



Mr John Blake and Dr Alison Blake

*This advocacy in relation to car safety belts and the design of windscreens was undoubtedly a very significant contribution to the health of all drivers in this country and especially a major contribution to eye health.*

*The ban on toughened glass in favour of laminated glass in 1986 led to a dramatic decrease in eye perforation in car crash survivors in Ireland.*

# Ophthalmology to form the Irish College of Ophthalmologists

## 1988

**The formation of Royal College of Ophthalmologists in the UK on April 14, 1988 was an important catalyst in the motivation for the establishment of an equivalent body for the training and representation of Irish ophthalmologists in our country.**

The College was originally formed from the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom and the Faculty of Ophthalmologists. The Society, founded in 1880 by Sir William Bowman, had held a scientific meeting every year with only a few exceptions during the Second World War. The Faculty, formed in 1946 by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, was the professional organisation for ophthalmologists. The Charter creating the Royal College of Ophthalmologists was granted in 1993.

On November 10, 1989 the IOS is incorporated as a Company Limited in Guarantee. By consent of the Minister for Industry and Commerce, the Society is not obliged to incorporate the word "Limited" as part of its name so that the name of the Society remains as it has done for the last 72 years. As is usual with companies limited by guarantee each member undertakes to guarantee the liabilities of the Society. Members are reassured however that the maximum amount of the liability of any one member is limited to the sum of £1. The Council had already also approved the Celtic Cross as a suitable logo for the Society.

## 1989

A research team at Trinity College Dublin, led by Prof Pete Humphries, identifies the rhodopsin gene, the first gene implicated in retinitis pigmentosa. Since then, over fifty genes are now known to play a role in RP.

## 1991

**Childhood Blindness Report in the Republic of Ireland**

In the British Medical Journal in 1991, Prof Michael Goggin and Prof Michael O'Keeffe reported the first national survey of childhood blindness in Ireland which was carried out between July 1989 and June 1990. This formed the basis for the live Register of Childhood Blindness maintained since by the NCBI.

1990s

## The formation of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists in the early 1990s commenced a period of formalisation of structured training and professionalism for ophthalmologists in Ireland.

It was also a period of extended focus on European and international affairs in ophthalmology and forming ties with overseas societies to ensure access and education of internationally recognised standards of ophthalmic care were accessible to our members. A joint meeting with the Belgian Ophthalmological Society was hosted by the IOS during Mr John Blake's Presidency.

Advances in effective treatments in retina fundamentally changed the way in which ophthalmology needed to be organised and practiced. The decade would also prove to be a time of rapid and significant advances in both medical technology and treatments for eye patients.

*Refractive laser surgery, which alters the refractive power of the eye by changing the corneal topographic surface, emerged during this decade and continues to be one of the most rapidly evolving areas in ophthalmology, and which has seen significant advances in the last 25 years.*

*Photodynamic therapy (PDT) in the form of second-generation photosensitiser verteporfin injection used in conjunction with treatment with laser light was widely approved for the treatment of wet age related macular degeneration beginning in 1999. The drug targets the neovasculature that is caused by the condition.*

CT and MRI scans were developed in the 80s and 90s, which was of significant benefit to ophthalmology.

The introduction of the formalised training and development of sub specialties evolved during the 1990s.

Laser delivery, corneal flap construction and clear lens extraction are but a few areas that have improved so that refractive surgery is no longer limited to mild to moderate myopes but can also be suitable, in the hands of skill and experienced surgeons, hyperopes and patients with astigmatism.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN CATARACT SURGERY

1990 - 1995

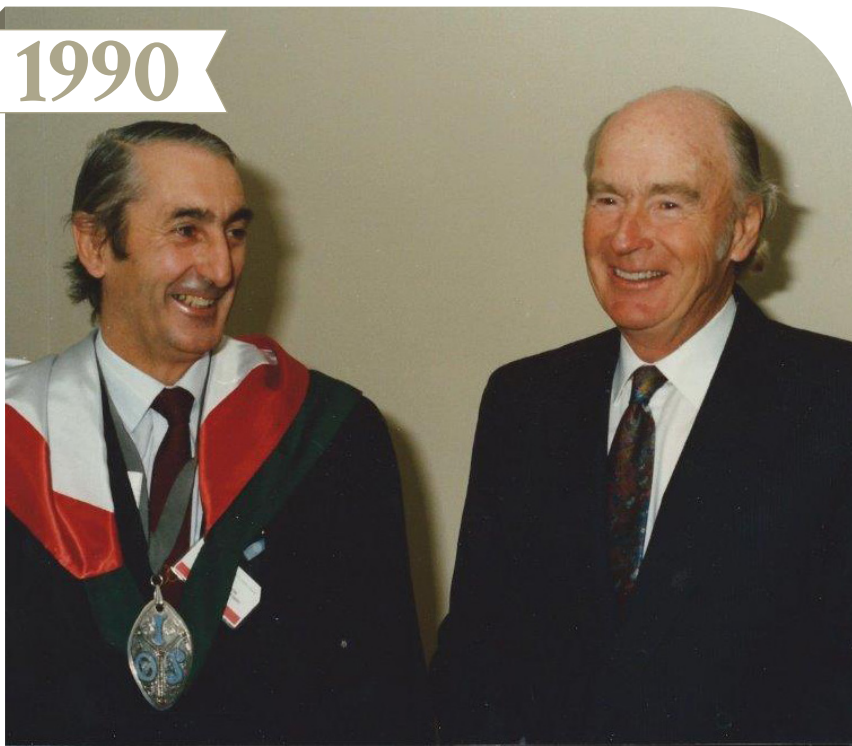
*During this period, most Irish hospital cataract centres acquired a phacoemulsification instrument, with Galway, Limerick and Cork units following on Waterford and eventually taken up by the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear and Mater hospital units in Dublin. Apart from the rapid improvement in the pump systems*

*of the various machines, which varied between peristaltic and venturi systems, the main driving forces to the adoption of phacoemulsification was the introduction of foldable lenses combined with the further development of sodium hyaluronate and other viscoelastic substances to enhance*

*capsulorhexis and protect the cornea and inner structures of the eye during the phacoemulsification process. The use of antibiotics in the infusion in addition to the above named changes has made phacoemulsification and foldable lens the surgery of choice to the present day.*

## 8th European Intraocular Implant Council Conference, Dublin

1990



*ICO President Mr Patrick Condon, pictured with President Dr Patrick Hillery at a function associated with the European Intraocular Implant Council (EIIIC), the forerunner of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery 8th Annual meeting held at Trinity College Dublin on September 10, 1990*

The decision by the European Intraocular Implant Council (EIIIC) to appoint the President and Secretary of the IOS, Mr Patrick Condon and Mr Peter Barry as organisers for the event stimulated an increased interest in the development of cataract surgery in Ireland amongst Irish surgeons. The IOS joined forces with the United Kingdom Intraocular Implant Society (UKIIS) and the European Refractive Surgery Society (ERSS).

The highlight of the meeting was an acknowledgement by Dr Patrick Hillery, President of Ireland, at the conference dinner in Dublin Castle, on the progress made in cataract surgery in recent

years. Sir Harold Ridley, the honoured guest to the conference, referenced the incredible progress made in recent years since his original operation in 1950. The conference also provided an opportunity for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to award an honorary fellowship to Emanuel Rosen, President EIIIC who achieved so much as a leader in the promotion of cataract surgery.

A novel feature of the five-day conference was the Live Surgery Cataract/IOL course at St Vincent's Hospital Dublin transmitted by video link to the auditorium in TCD, a first for Irish ophthalmology and for the EIIIC.

The Montgomery Lecture was delivered by Dr Doug Coster from Australia, a world authority at the time on corneal transplantation and who had established the donor corneal programme in Australia.

The H. Ridley Lecture, named in honour of Sir Harold Ridley, was given by UK ophthalmologist, Prof John Marshall, founder and developer of laser surgery for refractive correction of myopia.

## 1990

The official launch of the National Eye Bank in Ireland at the National Blood Transfusion Service, Mespil Road Dublin took place on March 8, 1990.

## 1991

### Community Ophthalmology Posts

Twelve years after agreement of the post in 1978, an urgent notice in relation to community ophthalmic physicians is circulated by letter to members following lengthy negotiations between the Faculty of Ophthalmology, the IMO, and the Department of Health. The notice informs members that agreement was reached in September 1991 to introduce permanent and pensionable posts in community ophthalmology.

## 1992

### Irish Ophthalmological Society and Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology are amalgamated to form the new Irish College of Ophthalmologists

On February 22, a joint council meeting of the Irish Ophthalmological Society and the Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology invited existing council members of the IOS to resign forthwith thus permitting a new council of the new Irish College of Ophthalmologists to take office. The meeting takes place at the AGM of the final 75th Annual Meeting of the IOS on May 1, 1992, at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. This final IOS Annual Meeting was a joint meeting with the Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology, the Danish Ophthalmological Society and the Bavarian Ophthalmological Society.

Although the new College began to operate at the end of the AGM on May 1, 1992, officially it was not until September 7, 1992, that the Irish Ophthalmological Society, with the approval of the Minister for Industry and Commerce, changed its name to the Irish College of Ophthalmologists and received its Certificate of Incorporation.

- **Mr Stewart Johnston is elected the first president of the ICO. Stewart Johnston had always sought to bridge the gap between the ophthalmological communities in Northern Ireland and the Republic.**
- *Professor of Ophthalmology Peter Eustace is elected Secretary General of the first Council Meeting of the European Board of Ophthalmology in London on 31 October.*
- **A research team in Trinity College Dublin, led by Prof Pete Humphries, identifies a second gene implicated in autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa – peripherin-2.**

1993

*Dublin's Eye and Ear – The Making of a Monument*, a book commissioned by the President and Council of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital and authored by retired ophthalmic surgeon, Mr Gearoid Crookes, is published. The book deals extensively with the humble beginnings of Irish hospitals, and looks back at the key Irish figures in ophthalmology as well as the modern instrumentation and application of new techniques since the Second World War, which revolutionised the treatment of diseases.

● **April 29, 1993: The First Annual Conference of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists takes place at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin.**

1995

**The inaugural Mooney Lecture was presented at the ICO Annual Conference in May 1995 by Prof T.R. Hedges**

The title for his Lecture is “A History of Neuro-ophthalmology: An American Perspective”. The Lecture was named in honour of the Mooney Family for their multi-generational contribution to ophthalmology in Ireland.

Ophthalmic surgeon, Dr Herbert Charles Mooney was the first of the dynasty to serve the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital with great distinction through three generations over the century. All are revered for the unremittingly high standards they set, for their example to their peers and juniors and for their immense courtesy and quiet generosity. H. C. Mooney was elected President of the Irish Ophthalmological Society from 1927-28.

His son, Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dr Alan J. Mooney, was elected IOS President

from 1957-58, and again from 1962-64. Alan Mooney is synonymous with clinical advances in neuro-ophthalmology in Ireland and as a driving force behind the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Research Foundation.

Dr David Mooney, son of Alan J. Mooney, was final treasurer of the IOS before the amalgamation of the Society with the Faculty to form the ICO in 1992. David Mooney showed a great interest in medical retina and established an exemplary fluorescein angiography and colour photography service and image library essential in imaging retinal vascular disease at the Eye and Ear Hospital which would later develop into the Photographic Unit at the Hospital and be replicated in many other units.

# Developments in Glaucoma Treatment

The most notable advances in terms of glaucoma management have been, not in the surgical arena, but in the form of new topical medications with the development of three new categories of well tolerated and highly efficacious topical medications that our predecessors in the 1960s would have been envious of.

The medical options available up to the early 1990s were limited to topical beta-blockers, topical pilocarpine and epinephrine, as well as oral acetazolamide, all of which created serious side-effects whilst preservative

allergy had only drainage surgery as a solution, compared to the topical preservative free alternatives we have available today.

The prostaglandin analogues entered the market in 1996 followed by topical carbonic anhydrase inhibitors and alpha 1 agonists with single dose units available for most categories as of circa 2012.

With the availability of highly efficient topical medications, glaucoma surgery in the developed world has significantly reduced, with many countries witnessing up to 70% reduction in glaucoma surgeries in the last 15 years.

In the late 1990s the surgical focus temporarily shifted to non-penetrating glaucoma surgeries which offered

a better safety profile but with a steep learning curve and lack of applicability to the more complex forms of secondary glaucoma. They remain useful techniques but are still not as commonly used as trabeculectomy. Molteno introduced the first effective shunt in the 1980s followed by others such as Ahmed and Baerveldt, offering a more sustainable long-term IOP control and an alternative to trabeculectomy in complex secondary, neovascular and uveitic glaucoma. Since 1995, the majority of new surgeries have consisted of new implantable devices. Whilst smaller devices for the management of glaucoma surgery in less complex cases are much lauded in terms of their lower complication rate, their long term efficacy, cost effectiveness and indeed the ideal target group for such minimally invasive surgery has yet to be evaluated in long term trials.

## POPULATION STUDIES AND SERVICE DELIVERY

*From an epidemiological view point Ireland made a valuable contribution to the ophthalmological literature on glaucoma prevalence with the 1993 paper by ophthalmologist Dr Michelle Coffey, entitled "Prevalence of glaucoma in the west*

*of Ireland" which was later published in the British Medical Journal. It remains a significant reference as the only population study of glaucoma patients in an Irish population. The results showed an overall primary open angle glaucoma prevalence of*

*1.88%, with prevalence rising to 3.2% in those older than 70 years. This means we can expect a gradually increasing burden of care over time as the population ages. Recent advances in technology such as advanced visual field analysis and imaging techniques*

*as well as the feasibility of remote viewing and electronic records are likely to benefit the delivery of quality glaucoma care in the community to the increasing number of people with glaucoma, or at risk of glaucoma, presenting to our clinics and hospitals.*

# 2000: A New Millennium

**As the medical authority on eye care in Ireland, the ICO continues to place a firm priority on its commitment to ensuring the highest standards of patient safety and urges all eye healthcare providers to refer to and abide by the guidelines. In 2016, the ICO was the first postgraduate medical training body in Ireland to publish a Code of Conduct for its members.**

The College evolves and matures in the early years of the new millennium, becoming more actively involved in advocating for patients on the broader ranging health and modifiable risk factors, such as obesity, tobacco and alcohol control.

The 'Your Sight Our Vision' national eye health campaign is initiated by the ICO in 2013, encouraging greater public awareness of the importance of early detection and treatment in the

prevention of avoidable sight loss. The College also takes a lead in supporting a number of annual eye health awareness campaigns including age related macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.

The College has instigated a significant programme of cross specialty work on balancing the sometimes competing priorities of medicine and the commercial delivery of care, including the publication of a multi stakeholder report on advertising in medicine and surgery.

In 2009, the College funded a research programme to develop the case for the establishment of a National Clinical Programme in Ophthalmology as a joint project with the Health Service Executive. The clinical programme becomes the forum for developing and evolving the strategy and model of care for ophthalmic care in Ireland.

Ophthalmic care in the 21st century is one of the fastest advancing specialties in medicine and Ireland is at the cutting edge, pioneering research into cures and treatments for sight threatening conditions.

Macular degeneration is one of the major fields of research in Ireland, with on-going work in the area of finding new treatments for the wet form of AMD. Laser photocoagulation was the first method of treatment of retinal vein occlusion and wet macular degeneration, followed by the use of photodynamic therapy for macular degeneration.

**Ophthalmic care in the 21st century is one of the fastest advancing specialties in medicine and Ireland is at the cutting edge, pioneering research into cures and treatments for sight threatening conditions**

However, it was not until the introduction of anti-vasoendothelial growth factor (Anti-VEGF) drugs in 2005 that the management of neovascular age related macular degeneration, diabetic macular oedema and macular oedema due to retinal vein occlusion

significantly improves the visual outcomes for patients. Prof Usha Chakravarty in Belfast continues to contribute hugely in the international trials for anti-vasoendothelial growth factor treatment. Prof Stephen Beatty in Waterford investigated diet supplementation to slow progression of macular degeneration.

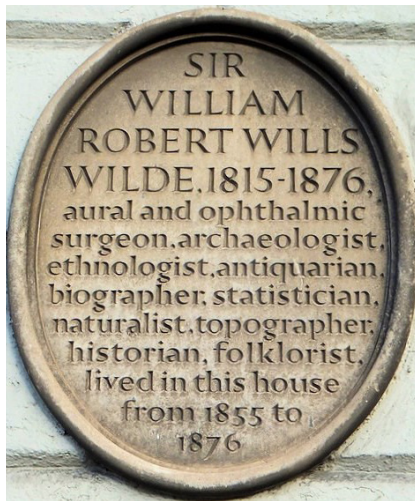
The research team at Trinity College Dublin continue to work on new treatment trials aimed at targeting the inflammation and immune system that are part of the macular degeneration. Mr Peter Barry's work on endophthalmitis management provided a blueprint for all ophthalmologists, particularly retinal specialists.

As we reach the latter years of the second decade of the 21st Century, we can also appreciate the significant advancements in the first genetic discoveries and stem cell treatments in medicine carried out in the specialty of ophthalmology in conditions such as Lebers congenital amaurosis and retinitis pigmentation.



## 2000

**The inaugural Sir William Wilde Medal was presented to Dr Sinead Byrne for her poster “The Effects Of Topical Anti-Glaucoma Medications On The Ciliary And Optic Nerve Head Arterioles In The Rat Eye”**



Sir William Wilde (March 1815 – 19 April 1876) was an Irish eye and ear surgeon, as well as an author of significant works on medicine. He was the father of famous Irish playwright and poet, Oscar Wilde.

William Wilde ran St Mark’s Ophthalmic Hospital for Diseases of the Eye and Ear, in Dublin. He was appointed to serve as oculist-in-ordinary, the first of its kind in Ireland, to Queen Victoria and performed surgery on the George Bernard Shaw’s father. Wilde’s son

Henry Wilson was also an ophthalmologist.

In 1864, William Wilde was awarded a knighthood at a ceremony in Dublin Castle for his involvement with the Irish census. He had previously been appointed medical commissioner to the Irish census in 1841.

## 2002

*The Macular Pigment Research Group* based at *Waterford Institute of Technology* was established in 2002. Here the team demonstrated the role of naturally occurring plant pigments known as carotenoids in slowing the progression of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The group later developed a supplement with active ingredients lutein, zeaxanthin and meso-zeaxanthin.

## 2005

Ophthalmic surgeon Mr Robert Acheson, President of the ICO at the time, led a group of members of the Irish College of Ophthalmologists to join the Ophthalmological Society of South Africa (OSSA) at their meeting in Cape Town in March 2005, at which Mr Patrick Joyce and Mr Acheson presented papers.

2009

### **First Artificial Cornea Implant is carried out in Ireland at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.**

The patient was fitted with a Boston Keratoprosthesis, an artificial cornea for patients unsuitable for a corneal transplant. The patient was blind for 46 years as a result of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome that had caused permanent scarring on her cornea before she regained her sight in 2009 as a result of the implant.

The rare procedure involved inserting an artificial cornea in the patient's right eye. The ophthalmic surgeon's outline was the first shape the patient saw when her bandages were unwrapped. Her outcome was described at the time as "probably unique in the world" in regaining her sight so long after first going blind.

### **The Division of Strategy and Clinical Programmes is established by the HSE.**

The aim is to improve and standardise patient care by bringing together clinical disciplines and enabling them to share innovative solutions to deliver greater benefits to patients. Thirty-four national clinical programmes, including ophthalmology (in 2012), have to date been established by the division.

### **TRAINING PATHWAYS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY**

*The past decade has seen the transition and evolution of the training pathway in ophthalmology. Among the most significant changes to the national training programme is the new streamlined approach introduced in July 2015 as the trainee progresses from core training to specialist training in both medical and surgical ophthalmology.*

*The need to more effectively align training programmes to manpower demand and patient need has put the spotlight firmly on medical ophthalmology. From July 2018, a stand-alone national training pathway in medical ophthalmology commenced.*

## 2010s

### 2010

The Peter Eustace Medal was established by unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the European Board of Ophthalmology (EBO) in Tallinn on June 20, 2010, as a mark of appreciation of the efforts of Irish ophthalmic surgeon, Mr Peter Eustace, who established the first EBO diploma examination in Milan in 1995. The Peter Eustace Medal is awarded to an ophthalmologist who has devoted long term and exceptional efforts towards upgrading education in ophthalmology in Europe.



#### COMPULSORY HEAD GEAR FOR GAA HURLERS.

*On October 29, 2009 the GAA announced that hurlers at all levels must wear helmets, including faceguards, from January 1, 2010.*

This follows sustained lobbying and the publication of a report on eye injuries resulting from hurling submitted to the GAA, Government ministers and health authorities by ophthalmologists in Waterford Regional Hospital and Cork University Hospital.

Ophthalmic surgeon **Miss Patricia Logan** becomes the first female President of a medical postgraduate training body in Ireland when she is elected President of the ICO in 2010.

### 2012



*Mr Paul Moriarty and Miss Patricia Logan are pictured with Minister for Health at the time Dr James Reilly, at the inaugural ICO Winter Meeting, Dublin, December 2012*

#### FIRST CLINICAL LEAD IN OPHTHALMOLOGY IS APPOINTED

**Mr Paul Moriarty** was appointed as first Clinical Lead in Ophthalmology followed by **Mr Peter Barry** in 2015 and **Prof William Power** in 2016.

2012

### HSE Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Formed.

The National Director for Primary Care in the Health Service Executive (HSE), commissioned a review of primary care eye services in 2012 and the first meeting of the Primary Care Eye Services Review Group (PCESRG) took place in August 2014.

The review group was established to document the existing eye care services and to set out a vision for the future organisation of primary care eye services in Ireland.

A detailed future blueprint and accompanying care pathways services to ensure a high quality, safe and consistent service for patients are defined as key objectives of the report.

### ICO Celebrates 21st Anniversary

The College celebrated its 21st Birthday with a formal dinner in the Four Seasons on Thursday, May 24, 2012.



*College President Miss Patricia Logan pictured with Past Presidents of the College (l-r) Mr Peter Eustace, Mr John Nolan, Prof Louis Collum, Mr Brendan Young, Mr Philip Cleary, Mr Rob Acheson, Mr Peter Tormey and Mr Paul Moriarty at the ICO 21st Anniversary Celebrations, May 2012*

## 2012

### Treatment Trial of QLT 019001 at the Research Centre, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.

The discovery of the first dominantly-acting RPE65 gene mutation in an Irish family with retinitis pigmentosa attending the Research Foundation opened the way for participation of affected members in a treatment trial (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01543906; principal investigator: Dr Paul. F. Kenna) of QLT 091001, a synthetic, orally delivered, 9-cisretinal analogue. This treatment trial was the first gene-directed treatment trial in any form of autosomal dominant RP. The trial was initiated in 2012 and successfully completed in August 2014.

The QLT 091001 next generation gene sequencing of patients with inherited retinopathies treatment trial illustrates the importance of identification of disease-causing genes in patients with inherited retinopathies as a pathway to discovery of new treatment options. Whilst no approved treatments exist at present for any of these diseases, progress in research worldwide to which the Foundation has contributed significantly, promises to develop novel treatments for these blinding conditions in the foreseeable future. Recognising this, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Ocular Genetics Unit at Trinity College, Dublin, was awarded funding by the Health Research Board and Fighting Blindness in 2010 to genetically characterise patients attending the Foundation using next generation sequencing (NSG) technology to identify disease-associated gene mutations.

- **Fighting Blindness launch *Target 5000***, a multi-disciplinary programme providing clinical and genotyping service to individuals in Ireland living with an inherited retinal degeneration. Central to this is the development of Ireland's first national patient registry for inherited retinal conditions that will enable the identification of Irish patients eligible for emerging clinical trials and approved treatments for these seriously blinding diseases.

## 2013

### The first Telescopic Implant procedure

was performed in Ireland at the Mater Private Hospital in March 2013. This new treatment, carried out as part of the CentraSight Care Programme, means that patients with end - stage AMD (Advanced Macular Degeneration) now have a new option in Ireland to help improve their vision and quality of life. The procedure involves the implantation of a tiny telescope into the eye of suitable patients, which has been demonstrated to improve vision.



Eoin Brosnan, Captain of the Kerry GAA Football team at the time, is pictured with (L-R) Mr Mark Cahill, Dr Patrica Quinlan, Dr Alison Blake and Dr Garry Treacy at the launch of the ICO 'Your Sight Our Vision' eye health awareness campaign at the ICO Annual Conference in Killarney, May 2013

### ICO Publish *Your Sight Our Vision* Eye Health

**Information Booklet** as part of the 'Your Sight Our Vision' campaign, encouraging greater public awareness of the importance of early detection and treatment in the prevention of avoidable sight loss. The booklet is endorsed by Healthy Ireland, the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Ireland.

- Roll out of *DiabeticRetina Screen* The National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme, a Government-funded programme offering free, annual screening and treatment of diabetic retinopathy to people with diabetes aged 12 and over is introduced in Ireland in 2013.

The establishment of the programme is a significant achievement for the specialty of ophthalmology as eye screening joins other high profile and successful screening programmes managed by the national Cancer Screening Services.

An integrated treatment component and electronic medical records system allows visibility of the patients through the entirety of their care pathway. When fully implemented, the screening programme is expected to halve the rates of blindness and vision loss due to diabetic retinopathy.

## 2014

**Scientists in Trinity College Dublin** discover that a component of the immune system 'IL-18' could have positive implications for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration. IL-18 directly inhibits VEGF production and suppresses the production of damaging blood vessels behind the retina.

## 2015

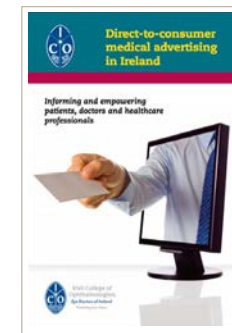
ICO Publish *Guidelines for Refractive Eye Surgery* as a reference for the public, patients and healthcare professionals. The guidelines provide the public with information on what to expect during the process, from decision making to post-operative care and is an important step in the ICO's continued efforts to safeguard patients and provide accurate information to the public.

This is followed with the publication of patient information leaflets in 2016 on a range of ophthalmic procedures in order to provide patients with clear and accessible information in advance of a proposed procedure. The leaflets outline the nature, purpose, risks and benefits of a proposed intervention for the most common eye conditions requiring treatment in the Irish health service.

- *Medical Fitness to Drive - National Visual Driving Standards Sláinte agus Tiomáint*, medical fitness to drive guidelines are developed by the National Programme Office for Traffic Medicine in consultation with Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Working Group on Traffic Medicine, which represents thirty-six organisations, including the ICO and other medical professionals, patient organisations, driver licensing authority, industry and drivers. Visual standards for driving are outlined providing a national framework on standards in traffic medicine in Ireland and reflecting recent developments in medicine, such as improvements in diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions.

## 2016

ICO Publish Report: *Direct to Consumer Medical Advertising in Ireland - Informing and Empowering Patients, Doctors and Healthcare Professionals*



In the interests of patient advocacy and in response to growing concerns relating to the marketing and advertising of elective procedures, a report calling for the regulation of direct-to-consumer advertising of medical and surgical procedures in Ireland was published in January 2016 by the ICO.

The report contains recommendations reached following an ICO hosted multi-stakeholder meeting in 2014. Efforts by the ICO have continued since to influence lawmakers and the Department of Health on introducing appropriate regulatory oversight in this area.

In December 2015, the ICO published Guidelines for the Advertising and Marketing of Surgical and Medical Procedures. The guidelines apply to any marketing or advertising material (broadcast, print or online) that could be interpreted as or deemed to potentially influence the decision making process of a prospective patient.



## 2016

*ICO Chief Executive Siobhan Kelly, Prof William Power and Dr Alison Blake pictured with Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris at the Gala Dinner of the 71st Plenary Assembly of the U.E.M.S. Section of Ophthalmology, held at the RCSI, Dublin, June 11, 2016*



## PUBLICATION OF HSE PRIMARY CARE EYE SERVICES REVIEW REPORT

*The ICO welcomed the publication of the Primary Care Eye Services Review Group Report by the HSE on June 28, 2017.*

*The national review of primary care eye services sets out the current levels of service, models of service provision and the consultation process undertaken with patients and advocates, ophthalmic staff and representative bodies.*

*The demand for specialised medical care for those with an eye condition or disease in Ireland greatly exceeds current capacity. The College has strongly advocated for a number of years that extra*

*resources are essential to ensure that the number of avoidable cases of sight loss is kept to a minimum and focuses attention on lobbying and engaging with policy decision makers.*

*The implementation of the recommendations in the report will be crucial to addressing the current unacceptably high waiting lists in ophthalmology, which are among the most numerous in the health service.*

*The ICO continues to impress on the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris and the Department of Health the urgency by which the necessary funding is made available to implement the recommendations of the Review Group.*



*Ophthalmic Surgeon, Mr Peter Barry*

### European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS) announce Annual Fellowship to commemorate Irish Surgeon Mr Peter Barry

The ESCRS announced an annual fellowship to commemorate the immense contribution made by the late Mr Peter Barry to European and global ophthalmology, and to the ESCRS. The fellowship is to allow a trainee to work abroad at a centre of excellence for clinical experience or research in the field of cataract and refractive surgery, anywhere in the world, for one year. The inaugural fellowship recipient was awarded at the ESCRS Annual Congress in Lisbon in October 2017.

**Continuing research at Waterford,** a trial funded by the European Research Council demonstrated an improvement in the vision of all of those taking a dietary supplement of what are known as carotenoids, with 40 of the 100 people diagnosed with AMD showing significant and clinical improvements.

Past Presidents of the ICO  
pictured at the Shelbourne Hotel,  
December 2017



Back row L-R Mr Brendan Young, Mr Peter Tormey, Mr John Nolan, Mr Robert Acheson, Prof William Power, Prof Louis Collum, Mr Roger Bowell. Front row Miss Patricia Logan, Dr Alison Blake, Miss Marie Hickey Dwyer

2018

### Commencement of stand-alone Medical Ophthalmology Training Programme

A stand-alone medical ophthalmology national training programme is introduced by the ICO from July 2018 for doctors with a specific interest in medical practice and reflecting the increasing medicalisation of care. The new pathway underlines the ICO's commitment to addressing the projected healthcare needs of our population and is in line with HSE and government policy to provide an integrated model of care between community and acute hospital service.



*November 16, 2018*

**A special event celebrating the centenary of the foundation of the Irish Ophthalmological Society is hosted by the ICO at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.**

The occasion seeks to mark the significant advances achieved in ophthalmic care in the last 100 years and the contribution of improvements in eye care to the general health of the Irish public.

The Annual Montgomery Lecture is delivered by Dr Michael Brennan, a great friend of the College, former President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and continuing advocate for medical leadership and progress across the developed and developing world.

## *With Thanks...*

Acknowledgement is gratefully made on behalf of the College to all our members who assisted in the compilation of material for this commemorative booklet. Special mention of thanks is extended to Prof Louis Collum, Mr Patrick Condon, Dr Susan Mullaney, Mr Brendan Young, Mr Robert Acheson, Mr Timothy Horgan, Mr Roger Bowell and Mr John Nolan who gave most generously of their time in helping the College with this booklet. The ICO also wishes to thank the family of the

late Mr Frank McAuley, who furnished the College with a wonderful record of archival material and other notable memorabilia, which was instrumental in the College's efforts to provide an overview of the history of the Irish Ophthalmological Society.

The ICO sincerely thank Ms Helen Madden, Archivist in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Ms Vivienne McGovern, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, and Ms Susan Leydon, Archivist,

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for their time and contribution in helping us resource relevant archival information. Equally, we express our gratitude to the staff at the Manuscripts and Archives Research Library at Trinity College Dublin.

We apologise unreservedly in advance for any inaccuracies that may feature within this booklet. The College was reliant on occasion on personal memories in the absence of complete records.

*Presidents of the  
Irish Ophthalmological Society  
1918-1992*

Arthur W. Sandford  
A. M. Killeen  
John B. Storey  
J. A. Craig  
Louis E. Werner  
T. H. Denny Townsend  
Herbert C. Mooney  
J. W. Killeen  
Frank Crawley  
Henry Hanna  
Fred Smith  
W. McCready  
I. A. Davidson  
R. Dwyer Joyce  
Vernon O'Hea Cussen

Euphan M. Maxwell  
W. A. Anderson  
Charlie Conor O'Malley  
H. B. Goulding  
J. B. McArvey  
Louis E. Werner  
J. Wheeler  
Dermot O'Donoghue  
Frank S. Lavery  
Alan J. Mooney  
Beatrice H. Lynn  
L. Beecher Somerville-Large  
Alan J. Mooney  
J. A. Corkey  
Louis E. Werner

Dermot Pierce  
Desmond H. Douglas  
Patrick Dwyer Joyce  
Victor A.F Martin  
T. John MacDougald  
Philomena M. Guinan  
Jack G. Madden  
Gearoid P. Crookes  
Joan Mullaney  
Desmond Archer  
Denis Wilson  
William Logan  
John Blake  
Patrick Condon  
Stewart Johnston

***Presidents of the  
Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology  
1958-1992***

L.Beecher Somerville Large	Ina O'Connor
Vernon O'Hea Cussen	Gearoid P. Crookes
Alan J. Mooney	Denis Wilson
Richard. A. Condon	Joe. A. Eustace
Frank McAuley	Frank D. McAuley
W. Dermot O'Donoghue	John Nolan
Donal Shorten	Charles F. Maguire
Catherine A. Quinn	Roger Bowell
Catherine Fitzpatrick	Gerard O'Reilly
J. Louis Ryan	

***Presidents of the Irish  
College of Ophthalmologists  
1992-2018***

Stewart Johnston	Robert Acheson
Peter Eustace	Peter Tormey
John Nolan	Paul Moriarty
Roger Bowell	Patricia Logan
Louis Collum	Marie Hickey-Dwyer
Brendan Young	William Power
Philip Cleary	Alison Blake

*\*In the absence of complete records, the ICO apologise unreservedly for any names which may accidentally have been omitted from the list of IOS and Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology Presidents.*

# Montgomery Lectures and Lecturers 1916-2018

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1916 "Diagnosis in Uveitis"

EUPHAN M. MAXWELL (DUBLIN)

1917 "Observations on Eye Conditions met with in Malta in 1916-1917"

EUPHAN M. MAXWELL (DUBLIN)

1918 "A Survey of Cases of Concomitant Squint in the Practice of the late Mr. P. W. Maxwell"

EUPHAN M. MAXWELL (DUBLIN)

1919 "The Cortical Localization of Vision"

GORDON M. HOLMES (LONDON)

1920 "Disturbance of Visual Space Perception"

GORDON M. HOLMES (LONDON)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1921 (i) "The Influence of Vision in the Development of Man's Intellectual Powers"

GRAFTON ELLIOTT SMITH (LONDON)

1922 (ii) "The Influence of Vision in the Development of Man's Intellectual Powers"

GRAFTON ELLIOTT SMITH (LONDON)

1923 "The Movements of the Eyes"

GRAFTON ELLIOTT SMITH (LONDON)

1924 "The Evolution of Pupillary Reactions"

E. TREACHER COLLINS (LONDON)

1925 "Accommodation"

CHARLES B. GOULDEN (LONDON)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1926 "Observations on the use of the Slit-Lamp"

THOMAS HARRISON BUTLER (BIRMINGHAM)

1927 "The Retinitis of Arterio-Sclerosis and Its Relation to the Retinitis of Renal Disease and Cerebral Vascular Disease"

ROBERT FOSTER MOORE (LONDON)

1928 "Some Medico-Legal Aspects of Ophthalmology"

ROBERT J. COULTER (NEWPORT, MON.)

1929 "The Contribution of the Slit-Lamp to Ophthalmology"

LOUIS E. J. WERNER (DUBLIN)

1930 "The Trachoma Problem"

FRANCIS J. LAVERY (DUBLIN)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1931 "The Modern Treatment of Traumatic and Spontaneous

Detachment of the Retina"

CHARLES B. GOULDEN (LONDON)

1932 "Modern Developments in Cataract Extraction"

MAURICE H. WHITING (LONDON)

1933 "Some Impressions derived from my Experience of Cataract Work"

ROBERT E. WRIGHT (LONDON)

1934 "The Bearing of Embryology on Clinical Diagnosis"

IDA MANN (LONDON)

1935 "Some Aspects of Glaucoma"

R. AFFLECK GREEVES (LONDON)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1936 "Transplantation of the Cornea"

J. W. TUDOR THOMAS (CARDIFF)

1937 "The Aetiology and Treatment of Convergent Concomitant Strabismus"

S. B. ALABASTER (BIRMINGHAM)

1938 "Lesions Affecting the Visual Pathway and their Relation to Neurosurgery"

ALAN J. MOONEY (DUBLIN)

1939 "The Causes, Prevention and Treatment of Spontaneous Retinal Detachment"

KARL LINDNER (VIENNA)

1940 "Pituitary Tumours: Ocular and Surgical Aspects"

ADAMS A. MCCONNELL (DUBLIN)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1941 "The Clinical Pathology of Fundus Lesions"

ARNOLD SORSBY (LONDON)

1942 "Studies in Night Vision and Night Visual Judgement as It Concerns the Ophthalmology of Flying"

P. C. LIVINGSTON (LONDON)

1943 "The Sources, Distribution and Disposal of the Blood in Ocular Haemorrhage"

A. J. BALLANTYNE (GLASGOW)

1944 "The Social and Medical Problems of Phlyctenular Disease in Dublin"

J. B. MCAREVEY (DUBLIN)

1945 "Retinal Vascular Sclerosis"

W. DERMOT O'DONOGHUE (DUBLIN)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1946 "Ophthalmological Aspects of Malnutrition"

STEWART DUKE-ELDER (LONDON)

1947 "The Problems of Sympathetic Ophthalmia"

BERNARD R. SAMUELS (NEW YORK)

1948 No Lecture

1949 "The Preparation of the Whole Patient for Cataract Surgery"

DANIEL B. KIRBY (NEW YORK)

1950 No Lecture

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1951 "The Surgical Treatment of Detachment of the Retina, with Special Reference to the Treatment of Recurrence"

H. J. M. WEVE (UTRECHT)

1952 "Diffuse Collagenous Diseases with Ocular Complications"

DERRICK VAIL (CHICAGO)

1953 "The Early Symptoms of Macular Disease"

MARC AMSLER (ZURICH)

1954 "Some New Contributions to the Diagnostic Problems of Glaucoma"

G. B. BIETTI (PARMA)

1955 "The Problem of Orbital Implants after Enucleation"

H. ARRUGA (BARCELONA)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1956 "Etiology and Pathogeny of Uveitis"

MOACYR E. ALVERO (SAN PAULO)

1957 "Third Nerve Regeneration - Clinical Evaluation"

FRANK B. WALSH (BALTIMORE)

1958 "Gross and Minute Defects of the Germ Cells and Clinical Ophthalmology"

A. HAGEDOORN (AMSTERDAM)

1959 "The History of Ophthalmology in Ireland"

L. B. SOMERVILLE-LARGE (DUBLIN)

1960 "The Diagnostic Value of the Biomicroscopy of the Posterior Parts of the Eye"

H. GOLDMANN (BERNE)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1961 "Malignant Uveal Melanomata"

J. FRANCOIS (GHENT)

1962 "Modern Trends In Cataract Surgery"

ALGERNON REESE (NEW YORK)

1963 "Ocular Manifestations of Diabetic Angiopathy"

KNUD LUNDBAECHE (AARHUS)

1964 "Ophthalmic Manifestations of Bilateral, Non-Occipital Lesions of the Cerebrum"

DAVID COGAN (BOSTON)

1965 "Change versus Progress in Ophthalmological Surgical Techniques of the Last Ten Years"

JOHN FOSTER (LEEDS)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1966 "Some Aspects of Corneal Wound Healing"

FRANK NEWELL (CHICAGO)

1967 "Cataract in General Disease"

GUNNAR VON BAHR (UPPSALA)

1968 "Uveitis - Immunopathy or Infection"

DAVID GERAINT JAMES (LONDON)

1969 "Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus"

HAROLD G. SCHERE (PHILADELPHIA)

1970 "Plastic Surgery and the Eye"

J. B. PRENDIVILLE (DUBLIN)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1971 "Modern Problems in Glaucoma"

PHILIP JAMESON-EVANS (BIRMINGHAM)

1972 "Orbital Fractures"

G. M. BLEEKER (AMSTERDAM)

1973 "Vascular Basement Membrane Changes in Diabetic Retinopathy"

NORMAN ASHTON (LONDON)

1974 "The Lower Visual Field and Its Importance to Man"

STEPHEN MILLER (LONDON)

1975 "Changing Concepts as to Prognosis and Management of Small Malignant Melanomas of the Choroid"

LORENZ ZIMMERMAN (WASHINGTON)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1976 "New Methods in the Operative Treatment of Glaucoma"

HEINRICH HARMS (TUBINGEN)

1977 "Curious Colobomata"

JOAN MULLANEY (DUBLIN)

1978 "Modern Trends in Retinal Detachment Surgery"

G. MEYER SCHWICKERATH (ESSEN)

1979 "Metallosis Oculi"

HELMUT NEUBAUER (COLOGNE)

1980 "Endocrine Ophthalmopathy"

ANDREAS BOUZAS (ATHENS)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1981 "Communication in Ophthalmology"

GERAOID P. CROOKES (DUBLIN)

1982 "Early Vitrectomy in the Management of Vasoproliferative Diabetic Retinopathy"

MICHAEL O'SHEA (TORONTO)

1983 "Goniotomy in the Treatment of Isolated Trabeculodysgenesis"

ROBERT SHAFFER (SAN FRANCISCO)

1984 "Sub-Retinal Neovascularization in Senile Macular Degeneration"

GABRIEL COSCAS (PARIS)

1985 "The Lens Capsule: Structure, Anterior Capsulectomy and Lens Implantation"

ROBERT DREWS (CLAYTON)

# Montgomery Lectures and Lecturers 1916-2018

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1986 "Radiation Retinopathy"

DESMOND ARCHER (BELFAST)

1987 "Refractive Surgery"

HERBERT KAUFMAN (NEW ORLEANS)

1988 "The Management of Diabetic Retinopathy"

MATTHEW D. DAVIS (MADISON, WISCONSIN)

1989 "Uveal Effusion"

JEAN JACQUES DE LAEY (GHENT)

1990 "Some Factors Affecting the Visual Outcome of Corneal Transplantations"

DOUGLAS JOHN COSTER (ADELAIDE)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

1991 "Understanding Amblyopia"

COLIN BLAKEMORE (OXFORD)

1992 "Modern Lens Surgery"

THOMAS NEUHANN, (MUNICH)

1993 "From the Eyelids to Cranio-Facial Surgery"

PAUL TESSIER (PARIS)

1994 "Complications of Diabetic Vitrectomy"

DAVID MCLEOD (MANCHESTER)

1995 "Degenerative Retinal Disease: Towards Gene Therapy"

PETER HUMPHRIES (DUBLIN)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

1996 "Graves Eye Disease"

PATRICIA KENDALL-TAYLOR

(NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE)

1997 "Meningiomas of the Anterior Visual System"

MICHAEL SANDERS, (LONDON)

1998 "Refractive Surgery – A replacement for Spectacles!"

PATRICK I. CONDON (WATERFORD)

1999 "Unnatural Injuries"

D. TAYLOR (LONDON)

2000 "Blindness Prevention: From Science to Policy"

A. SOMMER (BOSTON)

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

2001 "Pathogenesis of Glaucomatous Damage"

J. FLAMMER, (BASLE)

2002 "What's new in Ocular Tumours and Pseudotumours?"

DR. JERRY A. SHIELDS

(PHILADELPHIA)

2003 "Advances in the Diagnosis & Management Carotid-Cavernous Sinus Fistulas"

PROF. NEIL MILLER (BALTIMORE)

2004 "Age – related maculopathy: New aspects of pathogenesis, prevention and treatment"

PROF. PETER WIEDEMANN (LEIPZIG)

2005 "Biological Treatments of AMD"

PROF. ALAN BIRD (LONDON)

## University of Dublin, Trinity College

2006 "Developmental Eyelid Abnormalities"

MR RICHARD COLLIN(LONDON)

2007 "Is there any Room for Surgery in AMD Treatment now?"

PROF DR BERND KIRCHHOF

(DUSSELDORF)

2008 "Normal tension Glaucoma-does it exist?"

PROF ROGER HITCHINGS (LONDON)

2009 "Practical Thoughts on how we Doctors can Best Help our Patients, Ourselves and the World"

DR GEROG SPAETH (PHILADELPHIA)

2010 The Lecture was not held due to the untimely death of Mr John Lee

## Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

2011 "Novel Therapeutic Approaches for Diabetic Retinopathy"

PROF LOYD PAUL AIELLO (BOSTON)

2012 "Endothelial Keratoplasty: DMEK or DMET - what if Fuchs endothelial dystrophy does not exist?"

DR GERRIT MELLES (AMSTERDAM)

2013 "Ophthalmology in the 21st century"

PROF NANCY NEWMAN (ATLANTA)

2014 "Physics in Everyday Ophthalmology and Vitreoretinal Surgery"

PROF DAVID WONG (HONG KONG)

2015 "One Design with Multiple Derivations"

PROF DR. MARIE-JOSÉ TASSIGNON

(BELGIUM)

University of Dublin, Trinity College  
2016 "Accepting the unacceptable: Prevention and Treatment of Rejection of Donor Cornea"

MR FRANK LARKIN (LONDON)

2017 "The Evolution of Paediatric Cataract Surgery"

PROF MICHAEL O'KEEFE (DUBLIN)

2018 "When Irish Eyes are Smiling"

DR MICHAEL BRENNAN

(NORTH CAROLINA)



# Mooney Lectures and Lecturers 1995-2018

1995 "A History of Neuro-Ophthalmology: An American Perspective"

T. R. HEDGES (PHILADELPHIA)

1996 "Combined Cataract and Glaucoma Surgery"

BO PHILLIPSON (STOCKHOLM)

1997 "The Case for Corneal Transplantation"

LOUIS COLLUM (DUBLIN)

1998 "Glaucoma Therapy in the 21st Century"

HARRY QUIGLEY (BALTIMORE)

1999 "High Risk Corneal Grafting – Is There an Answer?"

DAVID. EASTY, (BRISTOL)

2000 "A Millennium Shift for Retinoblastoma"

BRENDA L. GALLIE,

2001 No Lecture

2002 "What is Neuro-Ophthalmology?"

PROFESSOR PETER EUSTACE,  
(DUBLIN)

2003 "Worldwide Eye Disease – Its Prevention and Treatment"

PROFESSOR GORDON JOHNSON

2004 "The Twist and Turn of Macular Surgery"

MR. DAVID WONG (LIVERPOOL)

2005 "Challenging Cases and the Management of Complication during Cataract Surgery"

MR. ROBERT OSHER (CINCINNATI)

2006 "Reconstruction of the Anterior Segment"

MR BRUCE NOBLE (YORKSHIRE)

2007 "Wavefront-Guided Refractive Surgery: Advances and Impediments"

DR DIMITRI AZAR (CHICAGO)

2008 "An Update on Amblyopia"

PROF GUNTHER VON NOORDEN  
(HOUSTON)

2009 "Evolving Concepts in Pharmacologic Vitreolysis"

DR BROOKS W. MCCUEN (NORTH CAROLINA)

2010 "The Link between Infection and Uveitis"

PROF JOHN FORRESTER  
(ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND)

2011 "OCT Application in Developing Eyes"

PROF CINDY TOTH (NORTH CAROLINA)

2012 "Retinal Oximetry in Health & Disease"

PROF EINAR STEFFANSON  
(REYKJAVIK, ICELAND)

2013 "Trans-synaptic Degeneration in the Human Visual System"

DR GORDON PLANT (LONDON)

2014 "MERSI Guidelines for a Preferred Practice Pattern for the Care of Patients with Recurrent or Steroid-Dependent Uveitis"

PROF STEPHEN FOSTER  
(MASSACHUSETTS)

2015 "New Directions in the Management of Diabetic Retinopathy"

MR SIMON HARDING (LIVERPOOL)

2016 "Regulation of Corneal Inflammation and Immunity"

PROF. REZA DANA (MASSACHUSETTS)

2017 "Climbing the Glaucoma Mountain – Future Challenges and Opportunities"

PROF. JONATHAN CROWSTON  
(MELBOURNE)

2018 "The Challenge of Cataract Surgery – Hard Work to Make it Look Easy"

DR CYNTHIA BRADFORD  
(OKLAHOMA)

## Sir William Wilde Medal Winners

**2000** "The Effects Of Topical Anti-Glaucoma Medications On The Ciliary And Optic Nerve Head Arterioles In The Rat Eye"

**S. BYRNE**

**2001** "Ocular Toxoplasmosis-Pathogenesis Revisited"

**H. MCLOONE**

**2002** "Gene Expression in Diabetic Retinopathy"

**R. KANE**

**2003** "Exposure of Photoreceptor Outer Segments to Blue Light Induces a Pro-Angiogenic Response from the Retinal Pigment Epithelium"

**E. COSGRAVE**

**2004** "Investigation and Management of Epidemic Intraocular Lens Opacification"

**R ALTAIE**

**2005** "The Photopic and Scotopic Visual Thresholds in Eyes with Solar Retinopathy: a Comparison with the Anatomical Damage"

**L O'TOOLE**

**2006** "The Role of Sonic Hedgehog Protein in Ethanol-Induced Ocular Teratogenesis"

**K. KENNELLY**

**2007** "Visual Outcomes and Graft Survival following Corneal Transplants: the need for an Irish National Corneal Transplant Registry"

**M GUERIN**

**2008** "Age Dependent Rat Retinal Ganglion Cell (Rgc) Susceptibility To Apoptotic Stimuli: Implications For Glaucoma Research "

**M GUERIN**

**2009** "A Cellular Model of Fuchs' Endothelial Dystrophy"

**C. KELLIHER**

**2010** "Prediction of Effective Lens Position Using A Method Independent Of Preoperative Keratometry Readings"

**I. DOOLEY**

**2011** "Genomic Medicine and Stargardt Disease"

**D. ARMSTRONG**

**2012** "Childhood Craniopharyngiomas; the Irish Experience"

**L. MCANENA**

**2013** "To Evaluate Endothelial Cell Count Loss after Five Years Following Phakic Intraocular Lens Insertion"

**C. BAILY**

**2014** "Ocriplasmin in the Treatment of Vitreomacular Traction and Macular Holes"

**L. HENDRICKS**

**2015** "Visual and Refractive Outcomes in Patients with High Astigmatism Following Cataract Surgery with Toric Lens Implantation"

**L. KOBAYTOR**

**2016** "Workings of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Application for Smart Phones"

**P. MURTAGH**

**2017** "An Audit of the Quality of Inpatient Referrals Received by the Ophthalmology Consultation Service in a Tertiary Hospital"

**C. GOODCHILD**

**2018** "Lamina Cribrosa Cell Bioenergetics in Glaucoma: Role of Glycolysis and Glutaminolysis"

**D. HICKEY**

## Barbara Knox Medal Winners

**2002** "Incubation with Endogenous Retinal Antioxidants Inhibits Chemokine Release by PRE in an In-Vitro Model of Age-Related Macular Degeneration"

**G.T. HIGGINS**

**2003** "Macular Pigment Optical Density and Dietary Intake of Lutein and Zeaxanthin in Healthy Subjects"

**J. NOLAN**

**2004** "Correlation of Central Corneal Thickness with vascular risk factors in Normal Tension Glaucoma"

**A. DOYLE**

**2005** "A Randomized Placebo Controlled Double-Masked Phase 3 Study of the Treatment of Subfoveal Predominantly Occult Choroidal Neovascularization (CNV) Secondary to Age -Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) using Transpupillary Thermotherapy (TTT)"

**A. HOGAN**

**2006** "Survivin Expression & Prognostic Significance in Choroidal Melanoma"

**C. CLEARY**

**2007** "MRI as a Novel Non-Invasive Method for In Vivo Tracking of Endothelial Progenitor Cells in a Model of Choroidal Neovascularisation"

**D. KENT**

**2008** "A Retrospective Study of the Paediatric Practice of one Community Ophthalmologist Over Seventeen Years in Cavan"

**A. BLAKE**

**2009** "The Effects Of Acute Cigarette Smoke Exposure on Retinal Pigment Epithelial Cells (Arpe-19)"

**S. NI DHUGHBHAILL**

**2010** "Epidemiology And Clinical Associations Of Primary Retinal Detachment In Scotland: 2 Years Of Prospective Recruitment"

**D. MITRY**

**2011** "Prognostic Indicators and Outcome Measures for Surgical Removal of Symptomatic Non-Advanced Cataract"

**S. CHARLAMPIDOU**

**2012** "Proteomic Research in Uveal Melanoma"

**P. RAMASAMAY**

**2013** "The Dublin Uveitis Evaluation Tool (DUET) – an Algorithm for Earlier Diagnosis of Spondyloarthropathies by Ophthalmologists in Acute Anterior Uveitis"

**M. O ROURKE**

**2014** "A Molecular Analysis of Human Lamina Cribrosa and Trabecular Meshwork Cell Behaviours as Determined by the Surrounding Extracellular Matrix"

**D WALLACE**

**2015** "Pellino3 as a Novel Target for the Treatment of Primary Sjogren's Syndrome Related Dry Eyes"

**Q. PILSON**

**2016** "Design of Nanoparticle- based MicroRNA Therapeutics in Sjögren's Syndrome"

**S. CONNOLLY**

**2017** "Comparing the Effectiveness and Tolerability of Preservative-Free Tafluprost Versus Preserved Latanoprost in the Management of Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension"

**D. BRINKMAN**

**2018** "Predisposing Risk factors, Clinical and Microbiological Characteristics of Moraxella Keratitis"

**T. MCSWINEY**

A speech that was never made - the occasion offered  
was the British Ophthalmological Society's dinner April 18th 1952.

As the only person here to-night who was present at the Meeting of this Society in Dublin in 1912 I feel privileged to say, not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of all my Dublin colleagues, how proud and pleased we are to have the Society here again.

Looking back, the year 1912 seems strangely remote mainly because life then differed in so many ways from life to-day. There was less noise everywhere for instance - less of a sense of urgency about many things - above all no justification for coining the phrase "World-War" had as yet arisen, and we were able to look forward to, and plan for, a future with a reasonably high ceiling of visibility.

On the other hand, looking back at that Meeting the sense of remoteness is over-shadowed by a strong sense of continuity. There were giants in ophthalmology then - there are giants in ophthalmology now. Indeed at this moment I am feeling like Gulliver amongst the Brobdingnacs.

In short in the between-whiles, despite lets and hindrances, ophthalmology has been steadily advancing (actually is in its fourth edition to-date !) adding a quota, rich both in volume and in range, to the sum of human knowledge.

May I now look back for one brief moment at my most vivid recollection of that Meeting though I must confess here that it is of the low-brow variety.

One of the visiting members had read a Paper in the morning describing his method of intracapsular extraction. We had had an old woman with cataract in the Eye and Ear Hospital prepared for operation so that he might demonstrate his technique in the afternoon.

Interest was intense. Everyone crowded round the operating table. As befitted a mere junior house surgeon, I stood in the background seeing nothing at all, as was indeed the case with most of the others. You could have heard a pin drop.

Suddenly there issued from the centre of the scrum "Damn it she's bust".

Picture the possibilities in some such scene to-day.

The on-lookers are seated in front of a television screen.

The anterior lens capsule is being cheerfully and whole-heartedly "bust" to provide a right of way for a plastic lens.

And then there is that "damn" with its savour of the naughty nineties. Fashions in words change. I suggest that the word of choice to-day would much more likely be something or other beginning with a B.

One last word Mr. President. Please do not let another forty years pass by before you all come again.

*Erphraim Russell*

(I have prevented Dr. Erphraim Russell from attending the Dinner + making his after-dinner speech)

*With the Compliments  
of the  
Irish Ophthalmological Society*

OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF  
UNITED KINGDOM

\*  
**ANNUAL CONGRESS**  
**Dublin**  
\*

17th, 18th and 19th April, 1952

# 1952

*Ophthalmological  
Society of the United  
Kingdom (OSUK)  
Annual Congress,  
Dublin, April 1952*



*Prof Derrick Vail (Chicago)  
delivers the Montgomery  
Lecture, 1952*



*L. B. Somerville Large, E. F. King, lady Duke-Elder*



*Sir Stewart Duke-Elder and Mr Alan Woods pictured at the OSUK Annual Congress in Dublin, April 1952*



Dr Winifred and Dr W Heath, G E Hewson, T J Macdougald, A C Hayes, F Dwyer Joyce, F Lavery, D O'Connor, F D McCauley, L E Werner



L E Werner, D O'Connor, A C Hayes, D O'Donoghue, F Lavery

IRISH OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING  
 29th & 30th April, 1st May  
 1954  
MATER MISERICORDIAE HOSPITAL  
DUBLIN  
 President - D. O'Donoghue



GENERAL PHOTOGRAPH AT THE MATER HOSPITAL.

Back Row:

F.Dwyer Joyce(Dublin); F.S.Lavery(Dublin); G.E.Hewson(Ballina); L.B.Somerville-Large(Dublin).

Sitting:

Ethel R.Kilkelly (Athlone); Eileen M.Kennedy(Ennis); Evelyn Arkins(Longford) Monica Keane(Athlone); Philomena Guinan(Dublin); D.O'Donoghue(Dublin); Prof.G.Bietti(Parma,Italy); Euphan M.Maxwell(Dublin); Dorothy Connolly (Dublin); Molly Campbell(Omagh); Ina T.O'Connor(Cork).

2nd Row

Catherine A.Quinn(Dublin); A.J.Mooney(Dublin); S.R.Sinclair(Belfast); Sean T.MacMahon(Galway); P.I.Tierney(Glommel); T.F.Roche(Dublin); Ruth Campbell(Dublin); Winifred Heath(Maidstone); Margaret C.May(Dublin); J.A.Gorkey(Belfast); A.McKie Reid(Liverpool); Beatrice Lynn(Belfast); Anna M.MacMahon(Galway); J.Mackay (Dun Laoghaire)

3rd Row:

B.J.Campbell(Belfast); P.J.Daly (Dublin); P.Fleming (Dublin); B.T.Cullen<sup>(Cavan)</sup>; T.J.Macdougald(Dublin); L.E.Werner(Dublin); Harold Ridley(London); D.J.O'Connor(Dublin); F.D.McCauley(London); W.E.Heath (Maidstone); J.A.Eustace(Drogheda); V.A.F.Martin(Belfast).

1954

*IOS Annual Meeting, Mater Misericordiae Hospital, April 1954*



L.B. Somerville-Large; P. Guinan



H. Ridley; S.R. Sinclair; P. Dwyer Joyce

We will be pleased to welcome any of our old friends, and it would make arrangements easier if they would be so good as to send us notice of their intention to attend the course.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES GOULDEN,

CITY ROAD,  
LONDON, E.C.1  
January 13, 1937.

*Dean of the Medical School,  
Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital.*

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## OBITUARY

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### LOUIS WERNER

IRISH Ophthalmology has suffered a severe loss in the death of Louis Werner which occurred in Dublin on November 24 at the age of 78 years.

He was the eldest son of Louis Werner, a French artist, who had studied at the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris under Paul Delaroche, and finally settled in Dublin.

At the age of fifteen, the young Louis was sent to the College of La Chapelle near Belfort in Alsace, where he acquired that proficiency in French and German which later proved invaluable to him in his extensive study of contemporary ophthalmic literature.

Returning to Dublin in 1876 he entered Trinity College. At his final Arts examination he obtained the "Large Gold Medal" in Ethics and Metaphysics. In 1880 he entered the Medical School, obtained a "Scholarship," and finally qualified in 1884.

Having decided to devote himself to the practice of ophthalmology, he was appointed to the Staff of the National Eye and Ear Infirmary under Dr. C. E. Fitzgerald and Dr. (later Sir) Henry Swanzy.

During the next few years, Louis Werner played an active part in helping to bring about an amalgamation between this small hospital, established in 1814, and the hospital of St. Mark's, an institution founded in 1844 by Sir William Wilde.

In 1897, he and his colleagues had the gratification of assisting in the establishment of the present Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital. This institution is a worthy monument to the zeal and public spirit displayed by the Irish Ophthalmologists of the nineteenth century with its 134 beds and large annual dispensary attendance.

Louis Werner was best known outside Ireland through his connection with the popular text-book: "Swanzy's Diseases of the

Eye." Between 1907 and 1925 he co-operated with Sir Henry Swanzy in producing a ninth and tenth edition, and on the death of his colleague, he produced three further editions under his own name. The sections in these which deal with optics and neurology are almost solely his own work. A further notable contribution are his beautiful paintings of external diseases and fundus conditions.

Among his many and various communications recorded in the *Transactions*, perhaps the most interesting are a short paper published in 1886, in which he identified the condition "Infiltration vitreuse de la retine" described by Masselon in 1884 with "Central guttate choroiditis": a note on a case of subconjunctival cysticercus (*Taenia Solium*) published in 1889; and a paper describing a case of "Intra-ocular echinococcus cyst with brood capsules" published in 1903. This last, illustrated by the author's excellent drawings of the macro- and microscopical appearances, together with microphotographs, has been accepted as the classical description of a condition which is of exceeding rarity in the British Isles.

Louis Werner's reputation in Ireland stood deservedly high. He held many public appointments, including that as Professor of Ophthalmology at University College, Dublin. His enormous private practice was evidence of the confidence that he inspired in the general public.

He had a most retentive memory, and a clear logical mind, characterised by a remarkable rapidity of thought. This rapidity also characterised his operative technique, which was of a very high order. It was a revelation to see him perform a cataract extraction. He had completed the operation, almost before those around had quite realised that he had begun.

He never lost his interest in intellectual pursuits. The fact that he took up the study of Russian, when over sixty years of age, is a proof of unusual mental vitality. His retirement from the "Eye and Ear" in 1934 came at the completion of fifty years of hospital work—surely a notable record of public service. He was a man of simple tastes. He loved music, and was a violinist of no mean order. To see him as the centre of his happy home circle was to see him at his best.

E. M. M.

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### THOMAS B. HOLLOWAY, M.D.

OPHTHALMOLOGY has suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. Thomas B. Holloway, of Philadelphia, for, besides being an eminent practitioner, he was Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, preparing students for an understanding of the part Ophthalmology bears in medicine, and, as an organizer at the Graduate School connected with the University, he became

# 1955

*Photos taken at the  
Montgomery Lecture  
at the IOS Annual  
Conference 1955*



*Frank Walsh (Baltimore), Montgomery Lecturer; Alan Mooney (President IOS); W. Henderson (President SBNS); L. B. Somerville-Large (Secretary IOS)*



*Dr Frank Lavery, (President IOS); Count Arruga; Dr Dermot O'Donoghue, (Out-going President, IOS)*



1956

Report on the IOS Annual Meeting, May 1956,  
by Frank McAuley

*Written by Frank McAuley for Society of Ophthalmologists*

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IRISH  
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY. 1956

The Annual Meeting of the Irish Ophthalmological Society under the Presidency of Dr. Frank Lavery, opened in Dublin on the evening of May 10th 1956, with the delivery in Trinity College of the Montgomery Lecture by Dr. Macoyr E. Alvaro (president of the Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology). His subject was "Etiology and Pathogeny of Uveitis".

In an opening reference to the growth of ophthalmology in Dublin - six Eye Hospitals were founded there during the first half of the last century - Dr. Alvaro mentioned such famous names in Dublin ophthalmic history, as Sir Philip Crampton, Arthur Jacob (who's discovery of the retina gave to it the name *Membrana Jacobi* and who was apparently responsible for the rodent ulcer being called Jacob's Ulcer), and Sir William Wilde said to be the most versatile and dynamic oculist that Dublin has produced, but who is probably better known to the general public as the father of Oscar Wilde.

Dr. Alvaro referred to the fact that in the same building exactly 40 years ago, the first Montgomery Lecture was delivered on the same subject by Dr. Euphan Maxwell, who happily was present today. After 40 years, opinions, such as those of Ashton and Woods were still at variance on the aetiology and even the pathology of the condition.

Dr. Alvaro favoured the terms *granulomatous* and *non-granulomatous* uveitis; the first differentiates the condition in which the ocular tissues are penetrated by the afflicting *lesion* from the allergic reactive type of the latter. He considers that a large number of cataracts diagnosed as senile in patients over 70 years of age, are in fact complicated cataracts in patients who are seen too late to have their uveitis diagnosed and in whom operation often leads to loss of the eye.

A very pleasant dinner was held in the evening at Jammet's Restaurant. On the following morning clinical cases were shown. In a discussion afterwards on the Ridley lenticulus, Mr. Harold Ridley, who is a member of the Society and a frequent visitor to their Meetings, gave some interesting figures of his earlier cases; of 42 extracapsular extractions replaced by his acrylic lenticulus in the years 1951-1953, 10 eyes still have vision of 20/20 or better, 14 have vision of 20/40 or better, 6 cases have 20/60, 4 lie between 20/80 and 20/120, 4 have less than 20/200 and 4 have dislocated. Of these last 4 one resulted from trauma and 3 were spontaneous, probably from damage to the posterior capsule at operation. 4 lenses inserted after intracapsular extractions dislocated into the vitreous. Mr. Ridley emphasises the fact that what often appears to be a straight-forward extracapsular extraction may result in damage to the posterior capsule.

2.

In the afternoon, in a session devoted to discussion of corneal grafting, Dr. Tom Roche (Dublin), described visits to the clinics of Panfiquo Franchescetti and other notable exponents of the operation on the Continent of Europe, and Mr. W.B. Rycroft from the East Grinstead Plastic Surgery Unit, spoke on the Biological Reaction in corneal grafting. The absence of vessels and the fibrous ring at the junction of the graft and host cornea, prevent such a reaction as a rule, but Mr. Rycroft recommends that the epithelium should be stripped off all donor material because it tends to set up a reaction, as shown by Maumenee, Lister and Greaves. Bi-weekly Eosinophil counts are advised in the immediate post-operative phase.

On the following morning Dr. Frank Lavery, in his presidential address, mentioned some names of famous people from abroad, who have delivered lectures to the Society, but he would like to see more contributions from the Society's members.

Dr. Meyer-Schwickerath from Bonn in Western Germany, was paying his second visit to the Country, having been here previously 23 years ago to learn English and judging by his wonderful delivery, he obviously spent his time usefully on that occasion.

He spoke on his *fascinating* wonderful new method of causing coagulation in ocular tissue by high intensities of light. The original method was by trapping the sun's rays with a convex lens and from that followed the carbon arc machine. The Weiss Company are at present preparing to market an improved instrument with a Xenon arc lamp, which can be used like an ophthalmoscope. It is not often that a lecture on a scientific subject holds the interest of an audience in rapt attention from beginning to end, but it is no exaggeration to say that Dr. Meyer-Schwickerath's talk entranced his listeners by the delightful and accomplished manner in which it was delivered and by the fascinating description of the multiple uses to which his new invention can be applied, from the sealing of retinal holes, the thrombosing of angiomatous vessels to the destruction of malignant cells and the formation of new pupillary apertures. His lecture was like a conducted tour around a huge eyeball in Fairyland, with Leprechauns manning the switches controlling the huge searchlight that was the coagulating beam. Dr. Meyer-Schwickerath has certainly opened up new horizons in ophthalmic therapy.

The final item of the Meeting was a discussion on tonography, precipitated by a stimulating paper on the tonographic studies in a case of essential iris atrophy, delivered by Dr. H. McGrath from New York. The electronic tonometer, being an American product, hence practically unobtainable in the Sterling area and impossible to have serviced here, is not a practical proposition at the moment. It was pointed out however, that a simpler instrument (non-electronic), which is said to be more accurate and much less costly, will shortly be on the market in Europe.

3.

Next year's gathering (16th and 17th of May, 1957) will be unique in that it will be a joint Meeting with the British Society of Neurological Surgeons, the first time that this Society has combined with a group from another specialty for its Meeting. Dr. Frank B. Walsh from the Wilmer Institute of Johns Hopkins Hospital has been invited to deliver the Montgomery Lecture.

1957

Society of  
British Neurological Surgeons

INVITED BY THE

Irish Ophthalmological Society

TO THEIR THIRTY-SIXTH  
ANNUAL MEETING

TO BE HELD IN  
DUBLIN

ON

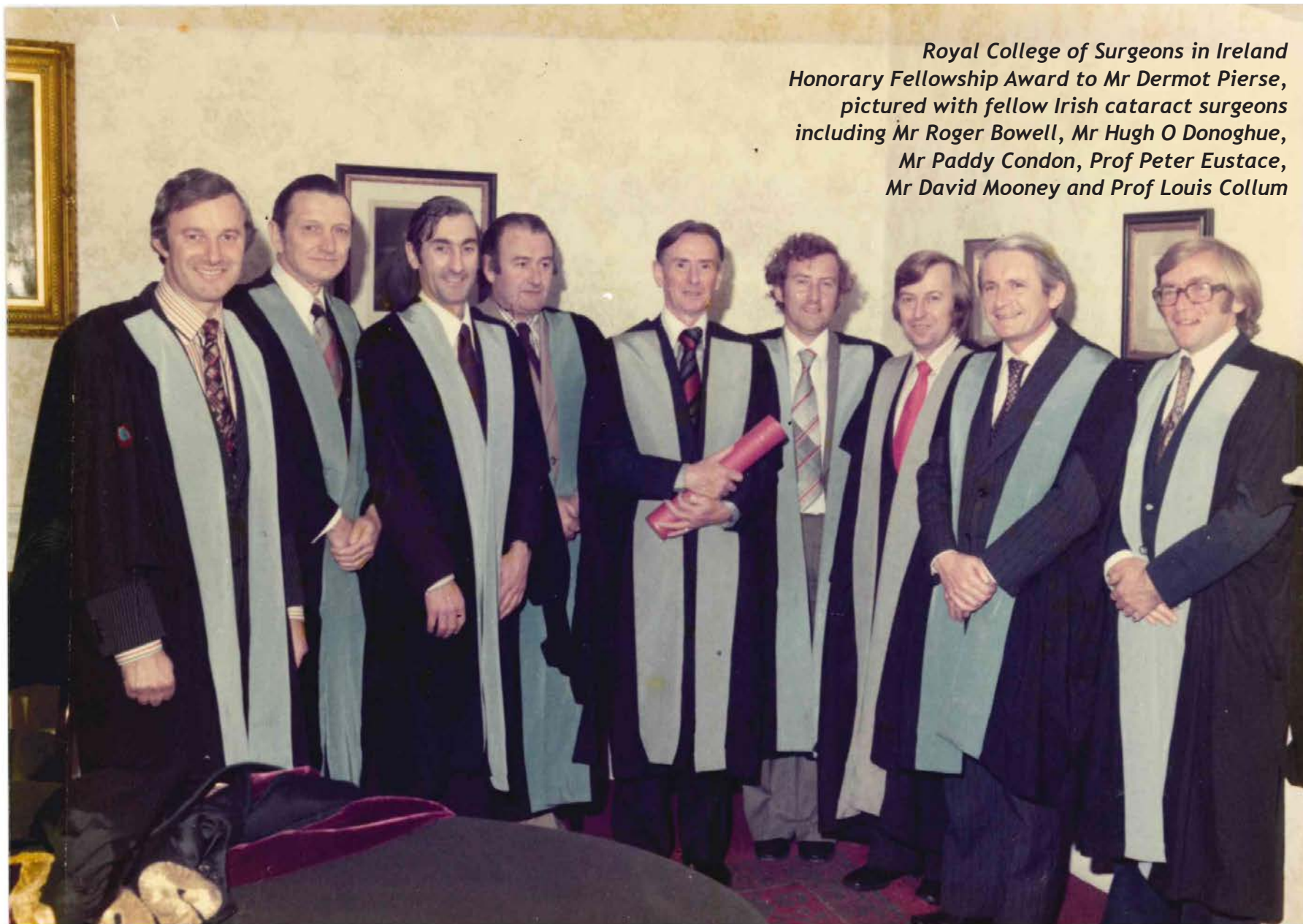
16th, 17th, 18th MAY, 1957

*Presidents :*

MR. W. R. HENDERSON, S.B.N.S.  
DR. A. J. MOONEY, I.O.S.

*Important :* Papers must be handed to the Secretary immediately  
after delivery or publication cannot be guaranteed.

A Trade Display of Instruments and Optical Appliances will be  
held in the Royal College of Physicians during the Meeting.



*Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Honorary Fellowship Award to Mr Dermot Pierse,  
pictured with fellow Irish cataract surgeons  
including Mr Roger Bowell, Mr Hugh O Donoghue,  
Mr Paddy Condon, Prof Peter Eustace,  
Mr David Mooney and Prof Louis Collum*

*RIGHT: RIGHT: Mr Peter Barry, Prof Louis Collum, Dr Amanda Collum and Mr David Mooney pictured at an IOS Meeting at Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, 1980s*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: Mr Frank McAuley, Mr Brendan Young, Mr Joe O'Byrne and Mr Joe Walsh, pictured at the same IOS Meeting at Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital*



1985 *Mater Misericordiae*  
University Hospital Eye Department



Eye Department, May 1985  
Back Gary Treacy, Orla, Dermot Roden, G. O'Connor, Eamon O'Donoghue  
Middle Una, Leslie Brady, Alison Blake, Frank Larkin, John Keane  
Front Hugh O'Donoghue, Peter Eustace, Sr. Bernard, Prof. Dwyer Joyce, Roger Bowell

Keepers Cottage,  
Stapleford

14. Jan. 90.

Patrick I Condon, Esq. F.R.C.S.,  
President of the Irish Ophthalmological Society,  
Dublin.

Dear Patrick Condon,

Thank you for your delightful letter dated January 8th. We too send kindest regards and best wishes for 1990 to you and other Irish friends.

I remember our conversation in Zurich in which I reported that though for many years we had enjoyed treasured friendships with several Dublin colleagues, especially Louis Werner, Becher Somerville-Large and Alan Mooney who were always so kind and generous to us our feeling of brotherhood had become less manifest because of events far removed from ophthalmology. Instead of visiting your country, sometimes more than once a year, to fish and to attend meetings of the Irish Ophthalmological Society which kindly granted me honorary status we have not visited Ireland for perhaps thirty years even though letters with one Dublin colleague are still exchanged nearly every month.

It is most kind of you and your Society to offer to make Elisabeth and myself honoured guests at the meeting in September and we have reconsidered our other commitments next autumn. We now feel that if there is anything which we can do to help ophthalmology in the British Isles and in particular to support the meeting and help to make it the international success for which you and your colleagues are striving we should do our very best to help.

We therefore could accept with thanks your invitation to be guests of the Irish Ophthalmological Society, and with it the Honorary Presidency for the session, providing this would not involve an octogenarian sitting throughout the whole of a half-day session.

I hope that no unexpected problems will prevent us all meeting again happily and that we may get to know some new Irish colleagues.

With kind regards, and thanks again for your invitation,  
Yours sincerely,

*Harold Ridley*

## MONTGOMERY GOLD MEDAL FOR WATERFORD SURGEON



The Mary Louisa Prentice Montgomery Lecture has been held in Dublin since 1913. Very few Irishmen have had the honour of delivering this prestigious lecture. Prior to Christmas, the 1998 Montgomery Lecture, at Trinity College, Dublin, was delivered by Mr. Patrick Condon, the well known Waterford Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Waterford Regional Hospital. The paper delivered by Mr. Condon was "Refractive Surgery - A Replacement for Spectacles." In his address Mr. Condon stated that it will be possible to eliminate spectacles in the coming years, with the new emerging field of re-

fractive surgery. His paper covered the 5 year experiences by him, of all refractive surgical techniques carried out in his practice, following the first Lasik procedure done by him, both in Ireland and the U.K., since the 17th March, 1993. Mr. Condon is well known for his lectures world-wide. He is Director of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, Master of Surgery, National University of Ireland, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, Edinburgh and London and Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. Presenting the G-Medal to Mr. Condon Professor Davis Coakl Dean of the Faculty Health Sciences. A included are Mr. Mich Hanna, Adm. officer, a Mr. Roger Bow President of the Ir College Ophthalmologists.

# 100 Years Protecting Irish Eyes

1928



The Dublin Ophthalmic Club was founded

1949

The first Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) is inserted in a cataract patient at St Thomas' Hospital, London

1966

National Ophthalmic Pathology Laboratory and Registry of Ireland is established at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital

1918



Ireland's first national society for ophthalmologists, the [Irish Ophthalmological Society](#) was founded. Its establishment was credited to Irish ophthalmologist, Dr John Benjamin Storey

1930



Dr Francis S. Lavery presented the Montgomery Lecture on the distribution and control of trachoma in the Irish Free State, with the implementation of his measures ultimately leading to the extermination of trachoma in Ireland

1952

1974

The Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI) established the Section of Ophthalmology



IOS hosted a Joint Meeting with the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom (OSUK) in Dublin



**1986**

Car windscreen manufacture regulations were introduced following lobbying by Irish ophthalmologists

**2000**

The inaugural Sir William Wilde Medal was presented at the ICO Annual Conference, May 2000

**2013**

Diabetic Retina Screen, the national Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme, is introduced in Ireland

**1992**



Irish Ophthalmological Society and Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology are amalgamated to form the Irish College of Ophthalmologists

**1995**

The inaugural Mooney Lecture was presented at the ICO Annual Conference, May 1995

**2010**



Head gear became compulsory for hurlers at all levels, after sustained lobbying and publication of a report on eye injuries by ophthalmologists in Waterford Regional Hospital and Cork University Hospital

**2016**

The ICO is the first postgraduate medical training body in Ireland to publish a Code of Conduct for its members

A special event celebrating the centenary of the foundation of the Irish Ophthalmological Society is hosted by the ICO at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland on November 16

**2018**





JOE A. EUSTACE  
 Catherine Fitzpatrick  
 Louis Ryan  
 Marie Hickey-Dwyer  
**ALAN J. MOONEY**  
 Beatrice H. Lynn  
*J. Wheeler*  
 LOUIS E. WERNER  
**DESMOND ARCHER**  
 Dermot O'Donoghue  
 Peter Eustace  
*Fred Smith*  
 J. B. McArvey  
 Gearoid P. Crookes  
 Peter Tormey  
*John B. Storey*  
 J. W. Killeen  
 J. A. Corley  
 CATHERINE A. QUINN  
 Charles F Maguire  
 Herbert C. Mooney  
 Louis Collum  
 Paul Moriarty  
 Euphan M. Maxwell  
 T. H. DENNY TOWNSEND  
 Louis Werner  
 ROBERT ACHESON  
 Denis Wilson  
**John Nolan**  
 VICTOR A.F MARTIN  
 H. B. Goulding  
 L. BEECHER SOMERVILLE-LARGE  
 Dermot Shorten  
*Joan Mullaney*  
**Dermot Pierce**  
*Ina O'Connor*  
 DESMOND H. DOUGLAS  
 Philip Cleary  
**STEWART JOHNSTON**  
 William Logan  
**A. M. KILLEEN**  
 Louis E. Werner  
**JACK G. MADDEN**  
 BRENDAN YOUNG  
 T. JOHN MACDOUGALD  
*Alison Blake*  
 Patrick Condon  
 Patrick Dwyer Joyce  
 W. A. ANDERSON  
 Roger Bowell  
 Gerard O'Reilly  
 Frank McAuley  
**RICHARD. A. CONDON**  
 Arthur W. Sandford  
 Alan J. Mooney  
 JOHN BLAKE

