# COLLEGE NEWS



QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

SPRING 2006

# **President's Report**

One of the most rewarding activities as President has been travelling round the country to attend regional study days and to have the opportunity to meet and converse with the local staff.

I have been welcomed in every region, including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been able to talk about the College and exchange views on the issues that are keeping us awake at night.

**Independent Sector Treatment** Centres have been a constant topic, as the government sticks to its plan to dismantle the NHS by introducing more plurality and competition. Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) has exercised us all trying to keep up with and influence the everchanging 'Career Framework Proposal' and the extension of prescribing rights debate has polarised opinion on professional competencies, patient safety and the importance of evidencebased practice.

All these issues require close engagement by the College and by making our views known to Ministers, the MMC Board, Healthcare Commission, GOC etc, we are trying hard to maintain standards for the benefit of the public and ensure that training is given the highest priority.

Sometimes it feels like 'kicking against the pricks' (Acts 9:5) but it is important to persevere and hope that good sense will prevail in the face of political 'short-termism'.



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# Training the trainers

Wednesday 22 March 2006

- 1 'What to Teach'
- 2 'How to Teach'

### **Tuesday 18 April 2006**

- 3 'Improving Teaching Skills'
- 4 'Feedback and Appraisal'

# Monday 5 June 2006

- 5 'Assessment'
- 6 'Problem Solving'

Daily fee: £265.00 inc V.A.T. Reduced fee: £647 inc V.A.T. if all three days are booked. www.rcophth.ac.uk/education

Please visit the *Do Once* and Share pages on the College website: www.rcophth.ac.uk /thecollege/doas

# Do nce & Share

# - Glaucoma

# **Opportunity Knocks!**

The Do Once and Share Programme (DOAS) is a national initiative from Connecting for Health (CfH) specifically designed to:

- Engage clinicians and patients in the design, development and implementation of IT technologies in the NHS by CfH
- Ensure that the needs of clinical specialties are taken into account, and
- Provide a care record focusing on the needs of patients who may be involved with more than one clinical specialty

It is made up of a national network of DOAS projects focusing on a particular clinical topic or condition across a wide variety of clinical specialties. By the end of 2005 there were around 45 with further expansion planned for 2006. Ophthalmology has done very well getting 3 projects in the first wave – in addition to Glaucoma, these include Cataract and Diabetic Eye Disease.

### **DOAS GLAUCOMA**

This started in November 2005 with a duration of 6 months. Its objectives are to:

- Develop a national clinical glaucoma care pathway template that has been approved by all the relevant professional bodies
- Define a core dataset for glaucoma supporting the care pathway template
- Engage and consult with the wider community of practice of professionals and patients involved in glaucoma care

In common with all the other DOAS projects, the glaucoma clinical care pathway and core dataset will inform the development of the NHS Care Record, its presentation to the user through the Common User Interface and ultimately, its use in practice in a clinical setting.

## How can you get involved?

To facilitate the widest coverage and involvement of professionals and patients as possible, a dedicated web-site has been set up: www.doasglaucoma.org

You'll find details about the project's scope, and its operational and accountability framework, but most importantly, you'll be able to observe it's progress and contribute to it throughout its duration. Currently the site highlights ongoing work collating examples of best practice in glaucoma care, information flows within and between clinical teams across primary and secondary care, and existing electronic systems. This will inform the development of the care pathway and dataset, which will include sourcing the evidence base supporting all proposed recommendations. In addition, developments from research and technology that are likely to influence clinical practice in the short, medium and long-term will be highlighted and prioritised for further work, to keep the pathway responsive and reflective of current clinical practice and opinion. Do take a look at it now, and send us your comments, but also watch this web space...Very shortly the first draft of the clinical pathway and dataset will be placed on the web-site - and we'll look forward to hearing from you.

### Why should you?

This is a long term venture. At this stage of the DOAS programme we are charged with getting the basics right for further development as necessary until the promised electronic care record becomes a reality. Ophthalmology has done well in getting 3 projects and this is a real opportunity for its clinical community to keep it in the mainstream of IT developments in the NHS.

# www.doasglaucoma.org

Parul Desai Clinical Lead, DOAS Glaucoma Consultant in Ophthalmology and Public Health Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

# **ORYCLE**

30 March - 1 April

ORYCLE is organised by the Ophthalmic Trainees Group to provide an annual education and social event for all SpRs, SHOs and recently appointed consultants.

The meeting will be held in the fantastic five star De Vere Hotel, Oulton Hall just outside Leeds. http://www.devereonline.co.uk

There will be a limited number of residential places available so make sure you book in good time to avoid disappointment.

The weekend fee is £210 and the daily fee is £75. The day rate includes an evening meal, and on Friday 31 March the evening entertainment, but does not include any accommodation during the meeting.

The meeting has been highly successful in the past and includes topics of interest and relevance to trainees that are often overlooked in other meetings and courses.

Application forms can be downloaded form the college website: http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/training/otg

**Thank you** Amit Patel – OTG Rep, Wales

# Congratulations

To **Alex Tytko**, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Education and Training Department, a daughter, Amelia Estelle, born 30 December 2005.

To **Barny Foot**, Research Fellow, a daughter, Sophie, born 20 January 2006.

**Katie Miller** has joined the Education and Training Department as Junior Assistant, following the promotion of **Carol Welch** to Senior Assistant.

### **President's Report**

continued from page 1

I shall miss coming down to London, albeit to a red box full of correspondence, and working with the College staff who have all become friends, in particular Margaret Hallendorff and Kathy Evans. I shall miss the tall figure of Sherlock Holmes at the entrance to Baker Street tube, although my image will be preserved on innumerable tourists' photographs taken in passing. I shall not miss the volume of email traffic which to my amazement has totalled around 17,000 sent and received!

My Chief Executive at the Norfolk and Norwich has been an invaluable support in giving me leave of absence to serve the College and my colleagues have worked like Trojans to keep up our activity.

I am pleased to be handing over the reins to Brenda Billington, who, I am confident, will enjoy the respect and support of all the Staff, Officers, Members and Fellows who have been associated with the College during the last three years and more. *Nick Astbury* 

# **Obituaries**

Allan Friedmann 1916 - 2005

A generation of ophthalmologists and patients will be saddened to learn of the death of Allan Friedmann at the age of 89.

Allan, who trained in Johannesburg, was closely linked to the anti-apartheid movement and left South Africa for England in 1961. He was appointed Consultant to the Royal Eye Hospital, working closely with Professor Sorsby, and when it closed in 1980 he transferred to St. Thomas's. His main expertise was in glaucoma although, through his interest in general medicine, he helped found the internationally famous Medical Eye Unit at the hospital. He will be remembered particularly for his development of one of the first computerised instruments for testing central visual fields - the Friedmann Analyser which greatly simplified the quantitative measurement of field changes in glaucoma and retinal and neurological disease.

He will also be remembered as a good colleague, an enthusiastic teacher, great company and a loyal friend.

Timothy ffytche

Alan Higgitt 1918 - 2005

Alan Higgitt qualified at UCH and joined the RNVR in 1942 as a surgeon lieutenant, serving as an ophthalmic specialist on a hospital

ship. After the war, he trained at UCH under Shapland and Neame.

His first Consultant appointment was at St Mary Abbott's Hospital, Kensington and he later held Consultant posts at Ashford Hospital, Middlesex and at the South Middlesex Hospital. He was appointed as a Consultant at the Fulham Hospital in west London which later evolved into the new Charing Cross Hospital. Here he established an interest in contact lenses and pioneered the treatment of diabetic retinopathy. Alan provided the backbone of the Hospital Eye Service and through unceasing effort earned the devotion of patients and colleagues until he retired in 1986.

Outside the hospital he was passionately interested in family life, sailing and music, being a member of the Galpin Society for early musical instruments. He enjoyed repairing early pianos and built by hand, using ophthalmic precision and dexterity, two harpsichords and a spinet. In July of this year he fell fracturing ribs and rapidly succumbed to pneumonia. He is survived by his wife Joan and his daughter, a Consultant Psychiatrist, and two sons. *David Spalton* 

# Professor A Ralph Rosenthal 1939-2006

Ralph qualified from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, in 1964, and then spent four years at the Wilmer Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. After serving as a Major in the US Army, he became Associate Professor of Surgery at Stanford University. His main interests were in glaucoma, intraocular copper foreign bodies, uveitis and epidemiology. In 1980 he was appointed the Frederick Thorpe Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology, in Leicester and through hard work and commitment made the department internationally recognised. He pursued his special interest in epidemiology, notably with the Melton Project, and set up the uveitis clinic and register and developed the day ward, which has subsequently been used as a model for many other units. He was both an entrepreneur and an innovator and set up the award winning Health Education Video Unit. He also chaired the College's Audit Committee.

He returned to the United States in 1996 as Director of the FDA's Division of Ophthalmic Devices in Maryland; he retired in 2005.

Ralph's likeable personality, manner and particular talents as a researcher, clinician and teacher will be greatly missed. He enjoyed theatre, art, music, travel and genial company. Ralph leaves a wife, Joan, two children and a grandson. David Goulstine

We also note with regret the death of **Costas Constantinides**, Limssol, Cyprus

# Not just tea and sympathy!

Action for Blind People, one of the UK's leading third sector organisations in vision impairment, has extensive experience of providing support to patients at the point of diagnosis. But many eye-clinics lack any such provision and Action for Blind People is working with RNIB, Guide Dogs, local organisations and with professionals in eye-health to address this gap.

The idea is to ensure that the patient is not left without support and information at any stage of the eye-care journey. Busy clinicians often do not have time to explain to patients the vast array of opportunity and support that is available to them, even if nothing more can be done for their sight. Blind people can get and keep jobs and lead full lives. Support at the point of diagnosis is designed to ensure that the inevitable psychological impact of sight loss does not become

permanent and that patients can begin to recover control of their own lives.

Action for Blind People has secured funding from the Department of Health to undertake a three year project to develop such services. This will provide for a project worker to liaise with PCTs and Social Services, map existing services, develop quality standards and secure long term funding for individual services.

Action for Blind People sees this post and project as vital in establishing quality services for newly diagnosed blind and partially sighted people throughout the UK. With hospital eye clinics, low vision units, ophthalmology teams, high street opticians and social service teams working closely with local societies, no one need fall through the gaps. Sue Silvester and Cherie Eveling sue.cherie@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

# **STAFF NEWS**

# Peggy McElligott 1942- 2006

Peggy came to work at the College in 1994 as our part time housekeeper and became well known to many who came to the College for meetings. Her love of life was infectious and many times there were gales of laughter from the kitchen as she related another of her escapades.

In the past year or so her health started failing but nonetheless she continued working and she never complained. Her final illness meant that she underwent grueling treatment at Charing Cross Hospital. We visited her there regularly and, right to the end, she made sure that she was looking her best and, although she could not longer speak, her methods of communication were well honed.

We extend out sympathies to her son, daughter and grandchildren. Margaret Hallendorff

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

# **2005 Awards Winners**

**British Eye Research Fund** Mr A Solomon

**Dorey Bequest Travel Award** Mr S Rajak & Dr M Urgate

**Ethicon Travel Award** Mr J Church, Miss V Cohen, Mr S N Rajak & Dr L Yuen

International Glaucoma Association Fellowship Dr Karaunratne & Professor Wright

**Sir William Lister Travel Award** Dr C A Cooke

**Pfizer Ophthalmic Fellowship** Miss V Cohen & Mr R Cromer

Patrick Trevor-Roper Undergraduate Award Mr M P Simunovic & Ms L Flanagan

# **CONGRESS NEWS**

23-25 May 2006 Manchester International Convention Centre/G-Mex

New online registration and payment system
There are innovations in the registration process. For some time we have been planning to move to a totally web based registration and payment system and this is now in place. No longer will you book your hotel and travel online and then hunt desperately for the Congress paper registration form, an envelope and a stamp!

Benefits and features of web registration

- Simple layout replicating the paper form, easy to understand and complete.
- No more worries about whether your posted or faxed application has arrived. Delegates can register and pay at any time of the day or night with a confirmation.
- Delegates who want to check

- whether they have booked can do so via the website.
- Delegates who are unable to commit to the Congress early can apply late and avoid registration queues.
- Delegates who have problems on the web can ring a dedicated registration helpline which will be manned from 9am to 5.30 pm – Monday to Friday.

Please visit the College website to register at www.rcophth.ac.uk

### Programme changes

The programme will be updated regularly as sessions and speakers are confirmed, do visit the website for the latest information.

Drinks Reception
Tuesday 23rd May at 4.30 p.m
Optic UK will be holding a drinks reception to commemorate Nick
Astbury's term as President. All delegates and speakers are invited hope to see you in the exhibition!
Heidi Packer

# WHITE # STAR ICE

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Ekkehard Fabian, MD Augencentrum Rosenheim Rosenheim, Germany

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WHAT YOU'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE.

FEEL

NEVER FELT BEFORE.





# An Audit of CPD Activity in Category B of Members of the Colleges On-line Programme

The on-line continuing professional development (CPD) diary for recording CPD activity has been available for one year; an audit of 10% of ophthalmologists registered with the system was conducted in the latter half of 2005.

A random sample of ophthalmologists' names were selected via the computer programme and supplied to the Regional CPD Coordinator as allocated on the CPD database. Each CPD Coordinator then asked those in the sample to supply evidence of attendance at Category B Meetings for which they claimed CPD points during 2004.

The evidence of attendance could range from production of a certificate, to final programme, to name badge or receipt of payment for the meeting or a personal recognition by the CPD Coordinator that these individuals attended the meeting. Of those responses 26 out 37 Ophthalmologists were able to give 100% evidence of attendance, 29 were able to give over 80%

evidence of attendance and only 4 were able to give less than 50% evidence of meetings.

There are currently 1,073 ophthalmologists registered with the College's CPD system with 63% of these using the system regularly.

One of the barriers to use of the system, often raised, is that it does take time to make entries on to the diary, particularly with effective reflection on these entries. Everybody should remember that although revalidation is on hold at the moment it will return. CPD activity is going to be a very important part of any revalidation programme and our patients and the Government expect us to keep ourselves up to date and to develop professionally. It is therefore just as important to set aside time to record our CPD activities, as it is to grade clinic referrals, or sign our letters.

I would like to encourage people to make more use of the system on a regular basis, to get the most out of it and to continue to keep records of attendance at meetings, national and international meetings for future audits.

John Jacob Chairman CPD Sub-committee

# 2006 Awards Closing Dates

### 21 April

British Eye Research Fund up to £5,000 **6 October** 

Dorey Bequest and Sir William Lister Travel Awards c. £400 - £600 (4 awards) 10 November

Ethicon Foundation Fund c. £400 - £800 (c. 4 awards)

### 27 October

Pfizer Ophthalmic Fellowship up to £35,000 **2 June** 

Patrick Trevor-Roper Undergraduate Prize c. £500

# **Awards**

Liverpool has strengthened its academic base; both **David Wong** and **Simon Harding** have been appointed honorary chairs to the University of Liverpool. They join **Bertil Damato**, in Ocular Oncology, **Ian Grierson** in Experimental Ophthalmology and **Paul Hiscott** in Pathology to make a professorial team of 5.

Andy Richards has been awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours for 'ophthalmic services to disadvantaged people in South Asia and Africa'.

The first volume of the Video Atlas of Eye Surgery on Basic Vitreoretinal Surgery received one of only three High Commendations in the BMA Book Awards, Electronic Media category. Congratulations to authors Bill Aylward, Paul Sullivan, Brendan Vote and Series Editor. Brian Little.

Department of Health's Health and Social Care Awards 2005 (South). Hospital Doctor of the Year Award has been won by **Christopher Liu**, Sussex Eye Hospital.

# Manpower Sub-Committee - Recruitment of a Staff Grade Ophthalmologist

The Manpower Sub-Committee advises the College, through the Professional Standards Committee, on issues relating to medical manpower within the specialty .It meets three times per year, at the College. There are occasionally other meetings of relevant interest to attend. In a changing medical environment, there may be other related manpower issues, which may also concern the College.

There is a need for Staff Grade representation on this Sub-Committee.

Interested Staff Grade ophthalmologists

are invited to apply to sit on this Sub-Committee, the next meeting of which will be held on 26th April 2006.

An abbreviated CV is required, together with a statement of the skills the applicant feels that they can bring to the Sub-Committee.

Please email: president@rcophth.ac.uk
Peter Black

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# **COMING EVENTS**

### 2006 College Events

■ 23 - 25 May Annual Congress The International Convention Centre Manchester nicola.briggs@rcophth.ac.uk

### **College Seminar Programme 2006**

- 28 March
  Clinical Skills and Imaging
  Techniques in Age Related
  Macular Degeneration
  The Royal College of
  Ophthalmologists, London
  Chaired by: Mr Ian Pearce,
  Liverpool and Mr Yit Yang,
  Wolverhampton
- 13 September Diabetic Eye Disease The Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place Chaired by: Miss Clare Bailey, Bristol

### ■ 29 September Advances in the Investigation and Treatment of Corneal Disease

The Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London Chaired by: Mr J Prydal, Leicester

- 1 November
  Clinical Skills and Imaging
  Techniques in Age Related
  Macular Degeneration
  The Royal College of
  Ophthalmologists, London
  Chaired by: Mr Ian Pearce,
  Liverpool, Mr Yit Yang,
  Wolverhampton
- 27 November
  Elizabeth Thomas Seminar –
  Macular Disease
  Venue in Nottingham tbc
  Chaired and organised by:
  Mr Winfried Amoaku, Nottingham

See College website for details www.rcophth.ac.uk/scientific

### 2006 other events

- 17 20 May 4th SOI International Congress Rome
- www.soiweb.com
- 22 May UKISCRS Satellite Meeting Visual Quality Following Cataract and Refractive Surgery Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester ukiscrs@onyxnet.co.uk
- 28 29 June BOAS, British Ophthalmic Anaesthesia Society 8th Annual Scientific Meeting The Burlington Hotel, Birmingham www.boas.org boas06@aol.com
- 1 2 July
  Annual Scientific Meeting
  of the British Society for
  Refractive Surgery (BSRS)
  St. Catherine's College,
  Oxford OX1 3UJ
  Guest speakers include:
  Cynthia Roberts, USA and
  Joseph Colin, France
  www.bsrs.co.uk
  marie.murdoch@quantum-pr.com

### ■ 2 - 5 July Oxford Ophthalmological Congress

The Randolph Hotel and The Playhouse Theatre Oxford www.oxford-ophthalmologicalcongress.org.uk Maggie@scattergood.co.uk

■ 13 - 14 July
The Redhill Retinal
Imaging Course
Renaissance Hotel,
Horley, Surrey
Includes ultrasound and
OCT to reflect recent advances
in the diagnosis of retinal
disorders. Suitable for all
grades of ophthalmologists,
medical photographers and
technicians.
Course director:
Mr. Amresh Chopdar

■ 13 - 14 July
Cornea & Oculoplastics
Course inc. Intro to
Refractive Surgery
East Grinstead
clare.bryant@QVH.nhs.uk

vision@nearpoint.fsnet.co.uk

# ■ 6 - 8 September 36th Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium St John's College Cambridge Childhood Visual Impairment Chairman: Professor Tony Moore b.ashworth@easynet.co.uk

### ■ 9 September UKISCRS Annual Meeting at ESCRS Excel, London ukiscrs@onyxnet.co.uk

- 13 16 September
  European Oculoplastic Meeting
  Joint ESOPRS and BOPSS
  (European Society of Ophthalmic
  Plastic and Reconstructive
  Surgery) and (British Oculoplastic
  Surgery Society
  Imperial College, London
  www.bopss
  esoprs2006@bopss.org
- 14 16 September
  World ROP Meeting –
  East Meets West
  Retinopathy of Prematurity –
  Is Blindness Preventable?
  Vilnius, Lithuania
  www.balticconference.com/rop2006
  The deadlines:
  Early registration June 15, 2006
  Abstract Submission June 1, 2006
- 15 September Vision Research 2006 University Of Bristol http://www.bris.ac.uk/ophthal mology/news.html maggie.cook@bristol.ac.uk
- 2 6 October Macular Course The Museum of London courses@moorfields.nhs.uk
- 17 November
  Medical Contact Lens &
  Ocular Surface Association
  Annual Scientific Meeting
  The Royal College of Obstetricians
  & Gynaecologists, London
  www.mclosa.org.uk
  jackie@events01.globalnet.co.uk
- 24 November
  Western Eye Hospital 150th
  Anniversary Celebration
  All Western Ophthalmic Hospital
  Alumni (including allied
  professionals) are invited to attend
  this day of celebration which will
  include a scientific programme,
  an open day for the hospital and
  dinner in the evening.
  veronica.ferguson@st-marys.nhs.uk

# **COLLEGENEWS**

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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# **New Appointments**

Please note that **Simon Morgan** is a Consultant in Blackpool Victoria Hospital, not Blackburn as erroneously reported in College News Autumn 2005

Riaz Hassan Asaria James Ball Azfar Wadood Chohan Lluca Ilani Rajni Jain Dipak Parmer Mahenh Romchandam

Hadi Zambarakji

Royal Free Hospital, London
St James's University Hospital, Leeds
Noble's Isle of Man Hospital
The West Kent Eye Centre, Bromley
Western Eye Hospital, London
Whipps Cross Hospital, London
Southport and Ormskirk District
General, Southport
Whipps Cross Hospital, London