

College NEWS



Summer
2007

ANNUAL CONGRESS 2008



Albert Dock, Liverpool

Congress 2008 will be a special event as the College will be celebrating its 20th anniversary. We will also be using a new venue, the Arena & Conference Centre, Liverpool, which is a purpose-built conference centre near Albert Dock. As Liverpool will also be celebrating in 2008 as the Capital of Culture, it should be an exciting Congress that we hope all our members will participate in.

The Scientific Committee is already working on an extensive scientific programme.

Provisional topics have been divided into sections to ensure a mixed timetable to suit all ophthalmologists.

Anterior segment:

Advances in contact lenses, corneal surgery, keratoconus

Cataract:

Which lens implant? pre-operative risk profiling, Cataract National Dataset, advanced surgery techniques & complications

Glaucoma:

Community services, understanding visual fields, imaging and controversies

Medical retina:

Diabetic retinopathy, intravitreal therapies, prevalence of AMD, the diabetic epidemic, imaging workshop

Paediatric ophthalmology:

Ophthalmic assessment, ROP, vision management

Other sessions:

Oculoplastics explained

MMC and the new curriculum
Thyroid eye disease
The ageing eye
Primary eye care
The 21st century ophthalmologist
Ethical dilemmas
Conflict and clinical management
Health economics
Ischaemic optic neuropathy
Skin and eyes
Carotid artery disease
Ocular oncology
Uveitis
Radiology of orbital disease

The announcement and call for papers will be sent out to all College members and fellows in September and we encourage you to submit your work.

Please put the dates in your diary:

20-22 May 2008 The Arena & Conference Centre, Liverpool

Artistic impression of The Arena & Conference Centre, Liverpool



The interior plaza



Heidi Booth-Adams
Head of the Scientific Department

There will be a report on the 2007 Congress, Birmingham, in the next issue of College News

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MTAS

We have tried to keep members informed of the process in trying circumstances. The position is constantly changing and members are urged to visit www.rcophth.ac.uk for the latest news.

Articles and information to be considered for publication should be sent to kathy.evans@rcophth.ac.uk and advertising queries should be directed to Robert Sloan 020 8882 7199 rsloan@rsa2.demon.co.uk

Copy deadlines

Autumn 5 August 07
Winter 5 November 07
Spring 5 February 08
Summer 5 May 08

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

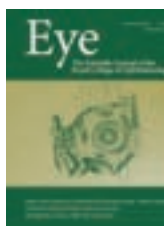
The Spring issue of College News carried a notice that the DVLA had ruled that diabetic drivers who have adapted to a stable visual field problem could apply for a licence re-instatement. This was over stating the position and, while the change remains a possibility, the Vision Panel of the Department of Transport has yet to agree new operational procedures.

VISION 2020 UK

VISION 2020 UK is an umbrella organisation set up to prevent avoidable blindness (see www.vision2020uk.org.uk for a description of its work).

Alistair Fielder will be stepping down as the College representative for VISION 2020 UK in September, having served with distinction for many years. Meetings are held in London, during the day and the dates are known well in advance. Alistair has also been on the Executive Committee but this is an elected position as only 12 trustees are required. Interested members are invited to contact:

kathy.evans@rcophth.ac.uk



Editor of EYE

The closing date for applications for the post of editor is 6 July 2007. The interviews will be held on 21 September in London. For more details please contact: kathy.evans@rcophth.ac.uk

Janet Silver was to have been admitted as an Honorary Fellow at the June Admissions Ceremony in recognition of her outstanding contribution as the Principal of Optometry, Moorfields. Sadly, Miss Silver died in March. The citation that would have been delivered at the ceremony will appear in a future issue of *College News*.

The General Optical Council

The College can nominate four ophthalmologists to be Members of the General Optical Council as from 1 January 2008. Any member wishing to be considered should contact kathy.evans@rcophth.ac.uk in the first instance. The list of nominees will be put before the Council meeting on Friday 7 September 2007.

Clinical Excellence Awards

We would like to give all consultants of five years' standing plenty of advance notice of a perennial autumn event. The Department of Health's Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards will seek nominations from the College. We expect the forms to appear on the following website: www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/accea/index.htm in due course.

EMAILS

We have collected the email addresses of more than 80% of the consultant membership. The President has used emails to set out the College's response to the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) debacle. It is a very fast means of communication and one which we regard as a two-way process since responses are welcome. We would like to be able to contact the whole membership electronically, using the system wisely and sparingly. We urge all members who have not already done so to email database@rcophth.ac.uk with their email address. We can, however, only store one such address.

SAS Ophthalmologists Group

Jonathan Eason has been elected as the Chairman and will be co-opted onto Council.

Professor David Wong, who completed a four-year term as Chairman of the Scientific Committee in May and who was the Senior Vice President, has been dividing his time between Liverpool and Hong Kong. He recently received £1.5 million as an endowed professor at Hong Kong University.



Professor Wong with (from left to right) his benefactor, mother and sister at the Second Inauguration of Endowed Professorships

Obituaries

Professor Barrie Jay

The College has lost one of its founding fathers. Barrie Jay studied medicine at Gonville & Caius College Cambridge and University College Hospital London, qualifying in 1952. Having completed his ophthalmic training at Moorfields Eye Hospital and The London Hospital as it was then (now the Royal London) he was appointed Consultant at both hospitals.

His scientific contributions have been considerable, as witnessed by a large body of peer review publications, book chapters and books, not least in paediatric ophthalmology and genetics. In both of these fields he has been honoured here and abroad, receiving, in 2004, a Lifetime Achievement Award by the European Paediatric Society.

Barrie's contribution to ophthalmology did not stop there: he embraced IT at its inception and saw its usefulness long before much younger colleagues. The expertise he acquired enabled him to create the first database of ophthalmic training facilities in the UK. This, together with his interest and dedication to medical education, led him and other far sighted colleagues to the conclusion that our interests would be better served by setting up our own college, away from the Royal Colleges of Surgeons, an idea vociferously resisted at the time by many, surprising though this may seem now. He was a Senior Vice President of the College. During this time he was also Dean at the Institute of Ophthalmology and in 1985 he was prevailed upon to take up the Chair of Clinical Ophthalmology at Moorfields.

His interests outside ophthalmology and medicine were many. He was elected Master of the Society of Apothecaries in 1995 and President of the Royal Philatelic Society in 1998, the latter position being the culmination of a lifelong interest in postal history. His green fingers were rewarded many times with prizes at the Royal Horticultural Society's annual exhibition for his dwarf irises.

His final illness was mercifully short, but tinged with his sad knowledge that he would not see his grandchildren grow up.

Michèle Beaconsfield

The Thanksgiving Service for Professor Jay will be held on Sunday 15th July at 3.00 p.m. at the Wimbledon and District Synagogue, 1 Queensmere Road, London SW19 5QD. This will be followed by a reception in an adjacent hall. Please let Sara Felton at the College know if you are able to attend.

Mr David Ivor Bowen 1937-2007

Educated at Shrewsbury, Gonville & Caius College Cambridge and St Thomas', David qualified in 1961 and then travelled the world as a ship's doctor. He then returned to 'the eye patch' under Harold Ridley, later becoming Senior Registrar at Cardiff and Lecturer at Liverpool. In 1972 he was appointed Consultant at Harrogate from where he pursued a career of respect and distinction, being one of the early (second generation) lens implanters in the North, and a Director of the Third Annual Congress of the European Intraocular Implant Council (now European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons) in 1984 at Harrogate. For several years he undertook the responsibilities of Secretary of NEOS and later became President.

David's outside interests included sailing, skiing, camping with his children, climbing, fell walking and golf. At one stage he was consumed by Marathon running, achieving at his best a time of 2 hours 47 minutes. Then there was the inner David with his love of art, poetry and classical music. In 1999 he moved to St Agnes Lodge with its beautiful walled garden in the shade of the great Ripon Cathedral, from where he would daily enjoy the sound of its bells. Sadly, his second wife Clare died soon after the move and, worse still, in September 2003 he was struck by a terminal illness. For three and a half years he bravely fought this, still intent on filling his life with travel, poetry and music. Generous to a fault, his many donations included two additional bells to the cathedral. He died on February 5th. Eight days later there took place a most moving tribute to his life at the cathedral, wherein we heard readings from Wordsworth, Shakespeare and St John, a noble rendering of Bach's *Schlummert ein* (from Cantata 82) by Simon Deller, and finally the unmuffling of cathedral bells that at last rang free, symbolic of the great truth of life triumphant. David was always the best of friends and will be sorely missed. He leaves four children and two grandchildren.

Piers Percival

We also note with regret the death of:

Miss Rachel Elisabeth Need, Henley-on-Thames



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Focus



Summer
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An occasional update commissioned by the College. The views expressed are those of the authors.

Development & Vision



The care of children with severe visual impairment is usually shared between ophthalmology and the local vision development team, the latter comprising the local sensory service, teachers of the visually impaired, paediatricians and sometimes optometrists and orthoptists.

Whilst there is a wealth of information available now to parents on the World Wide Web there has been no central resource to guide parents through the complex maze of issues they find themselves thrust into when their child is found to have a significant visual impairment. This is compounded by the realisation that vision impairment leads to developmental challenges in all areas of child development, examples being;

Early movement and mobility

- motivation to explore
- movement
- using hands
- learning to walk

Learning about the world

- understanding sound
- object concepts
- relationships and properties

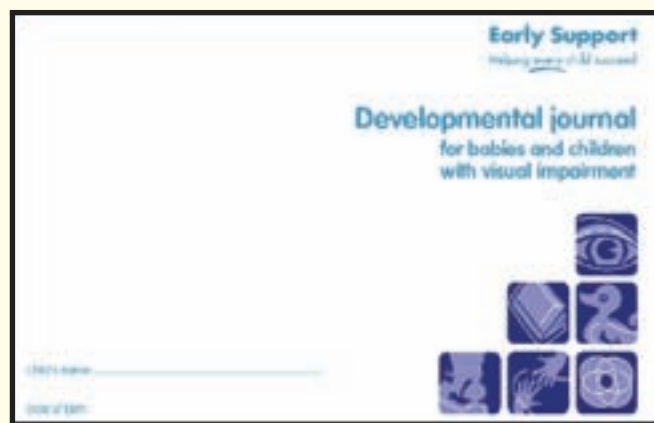
Patricia Sonksen and Blanche Stiff's book *Show me what my Friends can see*¹ based on their work in the Developmental Vision Clinic at the Wolfson Centre, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust was one of the first accessible books for parents and professionals, from a developmental stance. It has an entirely practical approach to activities which promote development and optimal vision.

Following this *Disorders of vision in children*² by Bowman was published by the RNIB. Again written with parents and

teachers in mind it gives an outline of visual disorders and how these may affect a child's development and their educational requirements.

In 2004 the Government Funded programme *Early Support* produced a booklet *Information for parents – Visual impairment*³ which is now in its second edition (2006). This complements both the previous publications giving parents information about vision, child development, the various professionals involved, details of support organisations, and information about certification (CV1).

The *Early Support* programme launched a new initiative in November 2006; the Developmental journal for babies and children with visual impairment³. This was devised by the Developmental Vision Team at the Wolfson Centre⁴, and has taken the themes from their work and the original book by Sonksen and developed them further into a structured record.



The journal is designed for use with babies and children up to the age of thirty-six months. It is somewhat daunting in size being contained in a large folder (or it can be downloaded in nineteen sections from the *Early Support* website³) and is packed full of information and activity cards.

The journal is designed for use by parents, to place them at the centre and allow them to understand their own child's development, to encourage and record it.

Within the folder there are standard materials to:

- Record children's development over time
- Celebrate achievement as children move on and learn to do new things
- Help families understand what their child can do to help them make progress
- Promote the use of vision

- Improve everyone's understanding of developmental processes involved.

These materials allow a shared knowledge of what the child can do, what might be expected and which areas of development need addressing. This is particularly important in terms of education and assessments by the child development team, and will fill in potential gaps in knowledge when attending the ophthalmology clinic. Hopefully this will promote an improved partnership between the families and the clinicians allowing more meaningful discussion of diagnosis, prognosis and bridge the gap of parental expectation.

At the beginning of the folder there is a single sheet the 'developmental profile' which is a summary and at a glance gives a picture of the child's progress.

The 'developmental journal' itself records five sets of developmental goals comprising activities within:

- Social and emotional development
- Communication & Language
- Play and learning
- Movement and mobility
- Towards independent self care over 5 stages.

Each stage has an individual booklet setting out developmental issues, how to overcome these with a record of outcome and within each section there are accompanying activity cards to give ideas for the parents or carer.

Because visual development cannot be linked to specific stages of the 'developmental journal' there is a separate booklet 'record of developing vision'. The introduction to this section describes the visual materials and issues such as background illumination, together with a classification of visual levels called 'functional categories of vision' measured at near, which can be summarised as:

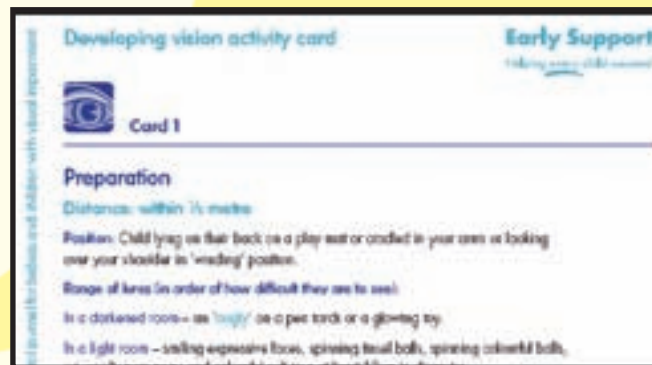
- V1: No perception of light
- V2: Aware of large and light reflecting objects of greater than 12cm size
- V3: Aware of colourful objects of less than 12cm size
- V4: Aware of objects smaller than 1.2cm

For each level there are suggested activities. The record of vision is itself divided into four and addresses at different levels for each stage;

- Visual acuity/interest
- Eye movements to a near and distant target
- Convergence

There are specific activity cards for each level, being guided by the functional category of vision.

The 'developing vision activity cards' give simple and straight forward ideas of visual interaction between child and carer, using pen torches 'oogly' and bright lures progressing to toys and photographs.



Toward the back of the journal there is a novel booklet entitled *Getting Stuck? More ideas for you and your child*. This looks at developmental areas at most risk in children with severe visual impairment, giving suggestions to common problems and guidance of where to seek advice.

The parents have possession of the *journal* but it is probably best used if introduced and used in conjunction with the child's vision impairment specialist teacher or key worker. The journal is conveniently split up so that the appropriate section can be brought to the meeting with the teacher or professional. It is suggested that the record is completed every 4 – 6 weeks in the first year and very 12 weeks thereafter and again that this is completed in collaboration with the specialist teacher.

The team developing this project were led by Alison Salt and Naomi Dale. The aims they set out were to:

- support parental understanding of their child's development and progress
- identify the small steps underpinning learning
 - stages of readiness
 - appropriate goals
 - sequential learning
- develop a shared language and understanding of development between parents and professionals
- provide a common framework for understanding the early development of children with a visual impairment
- highlight vulnerable areas that may need further support

The challenge remains the early identification of these children, and the development of a truly multidisciplinary approach both in the initial diagnosis and breaking the 'bad news' but also in enabling the parents with tools such as this journal, to help the children reach their full potential.

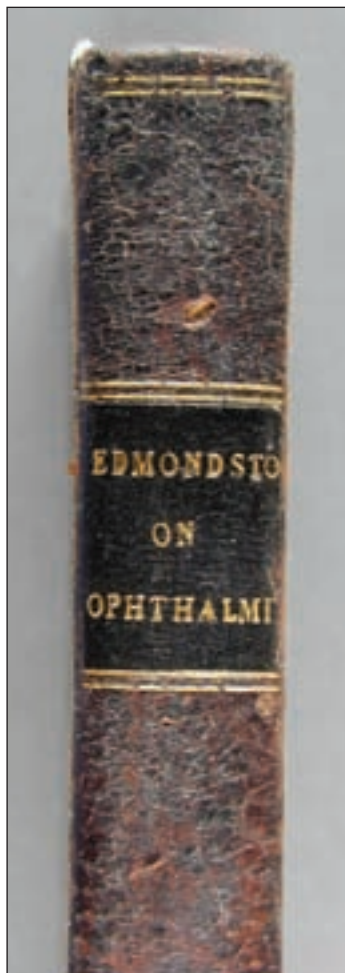
William Newman
Consultant Paediatric Ophthalmologist
Alder Hey, Liverpool
william.newman@nhs.net

References

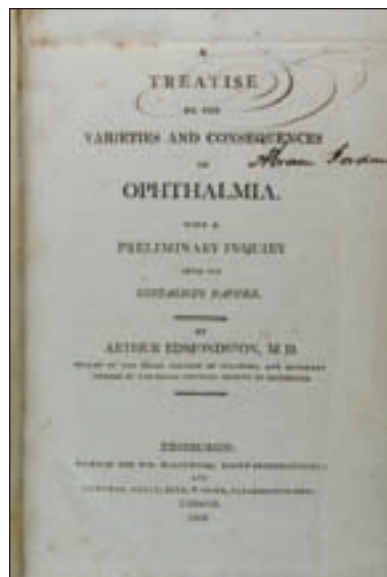
- 1 Sonksen P, Stiff B. Show me what my friends can see. Institute of Child Health, London 1999.
- 2 Bowman R, Bowman R, Dutton G. Disorders of vision in children. RNIB 2001
- 3 <http://www.earlysupport.org.uk>.
Information for Parents – Visual Impairment Developmental Journal. Both may be down loaded from the early support web site.
- 4 The Developmental Vision Team, The Wolfson Centre, Great Ormond Street Hospital.
<http://www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/gosh/clinicals/services/Neurodisability/InformationforHealthProfessionals>

Museum Piece

Recent additions



Ophthalmia by Edmondston



Ophthalmoscope with telescope



Top to bottom: Ophthalmia frontispiece;
1928 Brochure; Jonas Friedenwald

Recent additions to the Museum and Library have included two items separated in time by 120 years.

The first is Arthur Edmondston's 'A Treatise on the Varieties and Consequences of Ophthalmia. With a Preliminary Inquiry into its Contagious Nature'. Published in 1806, this was the first of more than 20 English publications on the subject of Egyptian ophthalmia between then and 1820.

Edmondston (1776-1841) was a Scottish surgeon in the Argyleshire Fencibles regiment when he published his first account. In it, he claims to be the first to demonstrate the contagious nature of ophthalmia. Edmondston was not in Egypt, however, and his research was based on his experiences with the outbreak of the disease in Gibraltar and the epidemic in Paris in 1803.

Edmondston's book joins others in the library on the same subject by authors including John Vetch (1783-1835) and his protagonist William Adams (1783-1827) and James Ware (1756-1815).

The second item was created by Jonas S Friedenwald MD (1897-1955), one of the most brilliant visual scientists of his generation. His interests were wide ranging and he was outstanding in all of them. He graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1920 and spent the last 32 years of his life directing the eye pathology laboratory there. At the age of 30 he wrote a book entitled 'The Pathology of the Eye'. His other activities included physiological optics, physiology, biochemistry and histochemistry.

In 1928, in conjunction with the American Optical Company, he designed an ophthalmoscope. This was the most comprehensively featured ophthalmoscope up to that time. It included intense oblique focal illumination, variable slit illumination, elimination of corneal reflex, adjustment for observing the fundus through a small pupil and a 45x magnifier for detailed examination of the eye. The most unusual feature of this ophthalmoscope was its length at over 13 inches.

The ophthalmoscope was obtained through a swap arrangement from the museum's duplicate instruments.

Richard Keeler
Museum Curator
rkeeler@blueyonder.co.uk

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The RCOphth Study Tour to Syria

11 - 17 February 2007



The Umayyid Mosque

What comes to your mind when Syria is mentioned? Did you think of Damascus as the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world? Was it the countless civilisations around the desert oasis of Palmyra or the numerous lost cities in the rocky area of Northern Syria? Was it the diverse breathtaking landscapes from desert oases to snow topped mountains? What about the string of Crusader castles or the dreamy souks around the Umayyid Mosque or the imposing Citadel of Aleppo? Perhaps it was the thought that the country has an ophthalmologist as a President?

We were an intimate group of 14 led by Christopher Liu, experiencing

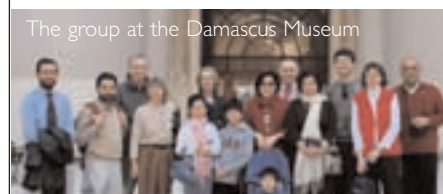
all of the above and far more as well as visiting two ophthalmic units and fostering links with our Syrian colleagues. Although we did not meet the President, we were very privileged to have a private reception hosted by the Syrian Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammed Naji Al-Otri. We were able to ask freely any questions we had and have them patiently answered.

The key professional highlights arranged by our contact in Syria, Dr. Muneer Otri, were the visits to the eye departments of Almouassat University Hospital in Damascus and Aleppo University Hospital. We now share a greater understanding of the healthcare system in Syria compared

with that of the UK. Formal presentations were given by our group covering topics from screening for childhood amblyopia to keratoprostheses. The greatest interest and source of debate were the lectures on bilateral simultaneous phacoemulsification and calculating IOL power after laser refractive surgery. Also tackled was the difficulty young Syrian ophthalmologists were having in getting training opportunities in the UK and this was placed in context with the Modernising Medical Careers initiative (MMC) and the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS). Clearly, the pressures on junior doctors are similar in Syria to those in the UK.

The Study Tour lived up to its promise. It provided a rare opportunity to truly experience local cuisine and culture with sincere hospitality from our hosts, well organised tours of historical sites, and the chance to acquire a deeper understanding of our international colleagues which cannot be had by simply meeting them at conferences. We left after one week, with very pleasant memories, and knowing that we have made friends for a lifetime.

Faisal Idrees



The group at the Damascus Museum

New Ethics Committee

The College is occasionally asked for a view on matters which raise some sort of ethical dilemma. Such questions are usually discussed at the Professional Standards Committee (PSC), which is the College's 'Ethics Committee'. The PSC has a large workload so the resulting time for discussion of topics which can be 'tricky' may be curtailed. Richard Smith, Vice President, Professional Standards has asked me to organise a sub-committee to discuss these questions, provide a balanced summary of the issues to allow PSC to reach a 'College' decision within a reasonable time-scale.

My plan is to set up an 'ethics forum' of about ten people who are

prepared to discuss ethical issues (mainly e-mail based). I have chosen the term 'forum' to indicate that this group will not be 'exclusive' and all College members will be able to voice their views about the matters under discussion (possibly, eventually via the College website).

I am aware that this 'discussion group' could quickly be subsumed in specious argument, so there will have to be some ground rules.

The topics to be discussed will be nominated by the PSC, and must relate to issues on which the College can hold a view: principally, eye health and disease. For example, we would not consider general topics such as the war in Iraq, but we would be very interested if, say, laser weapons designed to cause blindness were being manufactured

under the auspices of a UK-based company. Whether disposable surgical instruments are made using child labour was a question recently posed. This is, to my mind, more a question of fact than ethics. If they are, then this is clearly unacceptable; not much to discuss there.

I would also hope to steer clear, in the main, of precise questions about distribution of healthcare, or the precise wording of consent forms!

I am looking for volunteers from the trainee, SAS and consultant membership and for suggestions of topics to discuss.

If you are interested could you e-mail your brief details of qualifications and experience to: ethics@rcophth.ac.uk

Graham Kyle

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Augenzentrum Rosenheim
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BEFORE.**

DO

**WHAT YOU'VE
NEVER DONE
BEFORE.**

FEEL

**LIKE YOU'VE
NEVER FELT
BEFORE.**



NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

ORYCLE – Ophthalmic Registrars & Young Consultants' Learning Essentials

This year's ORYCLE meeting took place in Manchester on 29 and 30 March, with a new format and venue. More than 40 ophthalmologists were present as the meeting opened with dinner on the Thursday night and then moved on to lectures on Friday. Talks covered a wide range of topics including working on Orbis, how to avoid being sued and how to write a business plan. Ged Ainsworth, an old OTG committee member, came back to tell us what being a consultant is really like – and thankfully didn't make it sound too scary! The meeting concluded with a hotly contested debate between Phil Harvey of Netcare and Larry Benjamin entitled 'Is there room for ISTCs in the NHS?' which as well as being great fun was also very informative.

Perhaps the only downside to the day was the conference room, which became a bit of a talking point as the layout resembled an aeroplane, and Mike Nelson kindly pointed out the emergency exits in true airhostess style!

I am most grateful to all the delegates and speakers who helped to make the meeting such an enjoyable success. I also wish to extend a vote of thanks to Alcon who supported the meeting financially with an educational grant.

Fiona Lyon

All trainers that are members of the Surgical Skills Faculty are invited to attend an Update for Surgical Skills Faculty Trainers' Day on Wednesday 31 October 2007 from 13:30. For more information and a programme, please email skills.centre@rcophth.ac.uk

2007 BUPA FOUNDATION AWARDS

Awards worth £10,000 each are available in six categories:

- Care
- Clinical Excellence
- Communication
- Epidemiology
- Health at Work
- Research

The closing date for entries is 2 July 2007.

For full details visit www.bupafoundation.co.uk

Travel Awards and Fellowships

Information and application forms for all awards are available on the College website:

www.rcophth.ac.uk/education/travelawards

2007 SKILLS CENTRE COURSES

Cornea HST Study Day

Friday 28 September - Mr J Dart

Refractive HST Course

Thursday 11 & Friday 12 October - TBA

Medical Retina HST Study Day

Friday 19 October - Mr L Benjamin/ Miss S Downes

Oculoplastics HST Study Day

Monday 10 December - Mr B Beigi/ Ms J Olver

Intermediate Phacoemulsification Course

Friday 23 November - Mr J Brazier

Advanced Glaucoma Course in Warrington

Friday 2 November 2 - Mr C Peckar/Mrs M Wishart/
Mr P Wishart

Please visit: www.rcophth.ac.uk/about/skillscentre/ for more details.

THE INTERNATIONAL GLAUCOMA ASSOCIATION (IGA)

is pleased to announce a renewed grants programme and is pleased to offer an extra Fellowship and increase the value of each of the two Fellowships this year. Each will be up to a value of £50,000. Please visit <http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/education/travelawards> for further information and an application form or contact Miss Susannah Grant in the Education and Training Department.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: MONDAY 11 JUNE 2007

AWARD	AMOUNT	CLOSING DATE
Patrick Trevor Roper Undergraduate Award 2007	Two awards of £550 each	8 June 2007
International Glaucoma Association Fellowship 2007	Two awards of up to £50,000	11 June 2007
Sir William Lister Travel Award 2007	C. two awards £400-£600 each	5 October 2007
Dorey Bequest Travel Award 2007	C. two awards £400-£600 each	5 October 2007
Pfizer Ophthalmic Fellowship 2007	One award of up to £35,000	26 October 2007
Ethicon Foundation Fund 2007	Four to six awards of c. £400-£800 each	9 November 2007

Information for patients

The College has entered into an agreement with EIDO Healthcare to develop and endorse information for patients. It follows the steps taken by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd), the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) and the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) who also collaborate with EIDO on patient information leaflets. EIDO is the UK's leading company in the area of informed consent patient information, helping to protect clinical teams against litigation.

The ophthalmological patient information leaflets gained the endorsement of the College after an approval process that involved editorial input from College officers and the Lay Advisory Group.

The current set of patient information leaflets comprises the following procedures:

- Cataract surgery
- Corneal graft surgery
- Glaucoma surgery
- Retinal detachment surgery
- Correction of squint (adult)
- Correction of squint (child)

Leaflets close to completion include ptosis surgery, blepharoplasty and entropion and ectropion repair.

EIDO currently supplies 400 hospitals in the UK, Ireland, Australia and South Africa with a library covering approximately 250 commonly-performed hospital procedures across 24 specialties. The leaflets are delivered electronically via EIDO's web download centre and can be customised with a hospital logo and local further information details such as contact telephone numbers, email addresses etc. The leaflets will be updated on at least an annual basis.

For more information contact: adrian.lead@eidohealthcare.com

First College Seminar in Community Eye Health

In response to the need for training in ocular public health, ophthalmic primary care and community services, the College is pleased to announce its inaugural seminar in community eye health (CEH). It will be held on 20 September 2007 at 17 Cornwall Terrace.

It is aimed at all ophthalmologists (from clinical directors to trainees) interested in community services that integrate primary and secondary care with a holistic public health/social care approach. The seminar will help clinicians in secondary care respond to the latest Department of Health guidelines on commissioning community-based eye care services. It will draw on the principles of VISION 2020 regarding sight loss prevention and rehabilitation based on needs assessment.

The morning didactic session will present the principles of public health, evidence base and case studies. The afternoon will have a series of practical group exercises to enable delegates to start developing CEH plans for their local populations. Participants are also invited to help shape the future of CEH training in the RCOphth New Curriculum.

Andy Cassels-Brown

Please visit www.rcophth.ac.uk/scientific/seminars for more details.

BCPB
British Council
for Prevention
of Blindness



Prevention of Blindness Fellowship Programme

Applications are invited for BCPB Fellowships to start in 2008. The aims of the Fellowships are to fund research and training in prevention of blindness for high calibre clinicians and scientists from the UK and overseas. Projects must further the goals of VISION 2020: THE RIGHT TO SIGHT, the elimination of avoidable blindness. In 2008, BCPB seeks to fund one Fellow from the UK and one Fellow from a low-income country to undertake projects that focus on Africa.

Priority will be given to applicants who:

- Demonstrate that their project is innovative and increases knowledge of the causes of blindness and/or its prevention in line with the priorities of VISION 2020
- Demonstrate the ability and ambition to pass on their skills in blindness prevention

The Fellowships will be worth up to £60,000pa for 2 or 3 years. Applications must be submitted jointly by the Fellowship candidate and the supervisor at the host institution in the UK.

For full information and an application form, see www.bcpb.org or contact Jackie Webber at BCPB, 59-60 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HP or by email: info@bcpb.org

Closing date for receipt of applications
– 30th September 2007.

www.bcpb.org

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aspheric foldable lenses

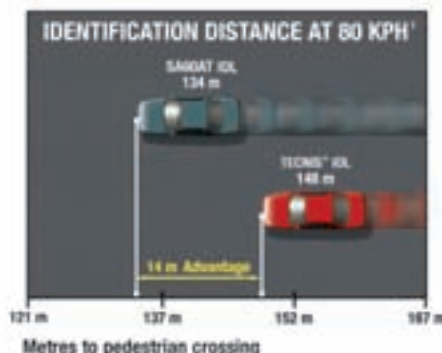
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1. Package Insert: TECNIS® Foldable Posterior Chamber Lens, Advanced Medical Optics, Inc.

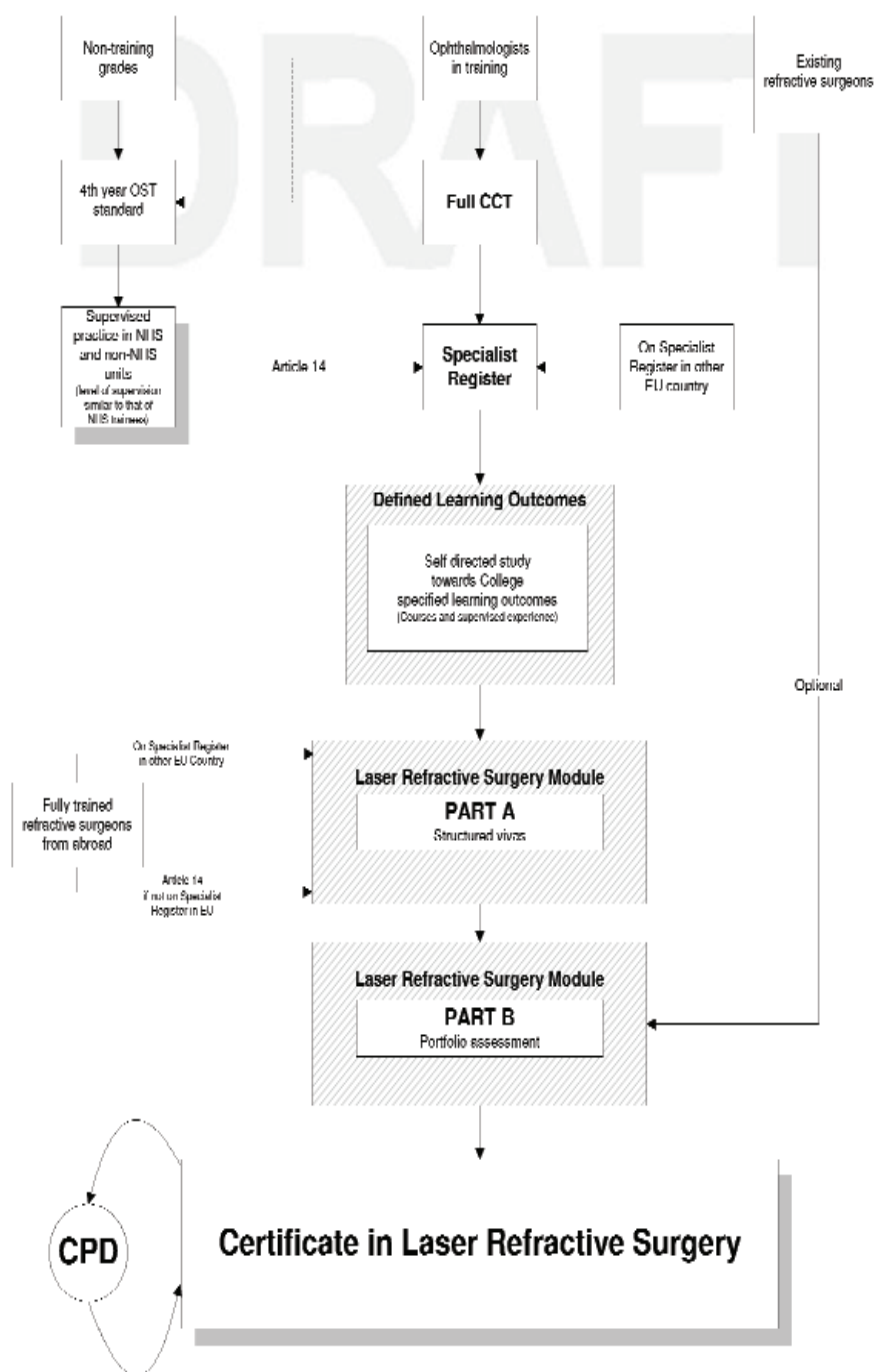
TECNIS® foldable intraocular lenses are indicated for primary implantation for the visual correction of aphakia in adults in whom a cataractous lens has been removed by phacemulsification. The lenses are intended to be placed in the capsular bag. **Rx Only.** **Precautions:** Do not resterilize the lens, do not soak or rinse the lens with any solution other than sterile saline solution; do not store the lens in direct sunlight. **Warnings:** Surgeons should consider the risk/benefit ratio for adults with preoperative ocular pathology, including but not limited to inflammation, distorted eye and microbial infection. **Adverse Events:** Adverse events that have been documented as having occurred following intraocular lens implantation include, but are not limited to corneal edema, iris, lens dislocation, hyphema, macular edema and retinal detachment. For a complete listing of precautions, warnings and adverse events, refer to the package insert.

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LASER REFRACTIVE SURGERY

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is introducing an assessment in laser refractive surgery. A pilot assessment was held at the College on 16 May 2007 designed to run through the various stages and iron out any problems before the first proper exam takes place later in the year. Further information will be posted on the College website as plans are finalised. Below is a diagram showing the recommended routes towards the certificate which, at the time of writing, is still in draft form.

Recommended routes for LASER REFRACTIVE SURGERY TRAINING



Article 14: This refers to Article 14 of the regulations of PMETB (The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board). PMETB took over legal responsibility from STA (Specialist Training Authority) for medical education and training in the UK at the end of September 2005. Article 14 refers to the regulations which allow an alternative route to specialist registration whereby previous training and experience wherever obtained may be considered. Detailed information is available from the PMETB website: www.pmetb.org.uk

4th Year OST standard: "OST" stands for UK "Ophthalmic Specialist Training", which is accompanied by an annual formal assessment process. In order to pass the assessment at the end of Year 4, UK trainees will need to have undertaken 4 years of ophthalmic training in an approved UK training institution, and must have passed Part 1 of the new FRCOphth examination and the Refraction Module. They must also have achieved a large percentage of the Learning Outcomes specified in the new OST Curriculum; these are listed in the "Assessment" section thereof. The curriculum is available at <http://curriculum.rcophth.ac.uk>

Experienced refractive surgeons:

Applicants must have gained the following prior to August 2007:

- Evidence of substantive experience: work in hospitals and training in ophthalmology for a minimum of four years full time equivalent or – FRCS, FRCOphth, MRCOphth as awarded from 1st January 1997 to 31 December 2008 or DO (but not DRCOphth or the pre-1997 MRCOphth)
- Minimum two years full time equivalent in refractive surgery.
- Validated audit of at least 300 consecutive eyes undertaken in last four years.
- Documentary evidence of satisfactory completion of formal appraisal (form 4) in the past year.
- Evidence of training and CPD which may include i. refractive training certificate from the laser industry or approved body ii. attendance at courses or conferences iii. presentation of papers iv. membership of bona fide refractive surgery organisations and societies - national and international - such as BSRS/ESCRS/ASCRS/ISRS/UKISCRS

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College Seminar Programme 2007

All seminars take place at the College, unless otherwise stated.

Retinal Imaging Course

19 - 20 July

Chaired by: Mr Yit Yang/
Mr Amresh Chopdar

Intravitreal Therapies

14 September

CHAIRER BY: Professor Sue Lightman

Community Eye Health

20 September

CHAIRER BY: Mr Nick Astbury and Mr Andrew Cassels-Brown

Oculoplastics

10 October

CHAIRER BY: Mr Tony Tyers

Retinal Vein Occlusions

19 October, The Institute of Physics,
76 Portland Place, London

CHAIRER BY: Mr Declan Flanagan and Mr Winfried Amoaku

The Elizabeth Thomas seminar:AMD

30 November, The East Midlands
Conference Centre, Nottingham

CHAIRER BY: Mr Winfried Amoaku

Please visit www.rcophth.ac.uk/scientific/seminars for more details.

Regional Study Days

VIIth State of the Art Refractive and Cataract Symposium 2007

22 June, Hull and East Riding Medical Education Centre

CHAIRER BY: Mr Milind Pande
www.visionsurgery.org

Wessex Neuro-Ophthalmology

2 November, Topics will include pupil abnormalities, idiopathic intracranial hypertension, neuro-ophthalmological manifestations of cognitive disorders

CHAIRER BY: DR ASHWIN PINTO
wessexcourses@suht.swest.nhs.uk
www.wessexcourses.org.uk

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists,
17 Cornwall Terrace, London NW1 4QW
Tel. 020 7935 0702; Fax 020 7935 9838
www.rcophth.ac.uk

Editor of Focus: Mr William Newman, Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital

Other events 2007

15 June

Annual Scottish Glaucoma Symposium

The Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh
denise.grosset@faht.scot.nhs.uk

15 June

New Frontiers in Deafblindness

Conference organised by the Dept. of Audiology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg and the Dept of Otolaryngology, QMC, Nottingham.
The Royal Society of Medicine, London
brian@earfoundation.org.uk

27 June

NEOS Summer Meeting - Is there still a need for the general ophthalmologist?

Crown Plaza Hotel, Chester
executive@neos.org.uk
www.neos.org.uk

28 - 29 June

Introduction to research methods and medical statistics

Dept. of Optometry and Visual Science, City University, London
d.crabb@city.ac.uk

5 - 7 July

3rd International Uveitis Symposium

Institute of Child Health, Guilford Street, London
courses@moorfields.nhs.uk

6 July

2nd Ophthalmology - Radiology Instruction Course

Wolverhampton Science Park, Wolverhampton
Soupramanien.Sandramouli@rwth-tr.nhs.uk

5 - 7 September

37th Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium: The Vitreous

CHAIRER BY: Mr Martin Snead
St John's College Cambridge
b.ashworth@easynet.co.uk

7 - 8 September

Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus

UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, BC, Canada
info@cpdkt.ubc.ca

14 September

Vision Research 2007, academic meeting Development and Genetics, Inflammation and Eye Disease

University of Bristol
maggie.cook@bristol.ac.uk

25 September

Brian Harcourt Meeting 2007

Topic: Glaucoma
Hazlewood Castle near Leeds/York
www.brianharcourt.org/

27 - 28 September

UKISCRS Annual Meeting

Harrogate International Centre
ukiscrs@onyxnet.co.uk

31 October

NEOS Autumn Meeting - Retina plus surgical updates

Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool
executive@neos.org.uk
www.neos.org.uk

23 November

Sussex Eye Hospital 175th Anniversary Meeting and Annual Endowment Lecture

Sussex Eye Hospital. All welcome especially alumni and friends of the Hospital.
Christopher.Liu@bsuh.nhs.uk

2008

7 - 8 March

Brighton Cornea Course, Brighton

A two-day course on cornea and external disease for all grades of trainees, Fellows and Consultants wishing to update themselves.
sharmina.khan@yahoo.co.uk or cscliu@aol.com

28 June - 2 July

World Ophthalmology Congress

Hong Kong
info@woc2008hongkong.org
www.woc2008hongkong.org

Consultant Appointments

Mr Amar Alwitary

Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Derby

Mr Ben Burton

Royal Glamorgan General Hospital, Llantrisant

Mr Casper Gibbon

North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple

Dr Fiona Irvine

Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter

Mr Mark Freeman

University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff

Miss Winifred Nolan

Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre, Birmingham

Mr David Squirrell

Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield

Mr Christopher Williams

University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff

In 2005 there were 56 appointments, 2006 there were 27 and to date (May 2007) the College is aware of 26 posts.