

North of England Ophthalmological Society Autumn Meeting

The North of England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS) met in Wakefield for the Society's Autumn meeting. The venue was the Cedar Court Hotel, which proved to be an excellent choice with a large well-equipped auditorium. Even so, the meeting was so well attended it was standing room only at times, a tribute to both the excellent programme prepared by convener Andrew Chung and the range of high-calibre speakers invited.

The first presentation was by Zanna Currie (Sheffield) who presented a comprehensive guide to the management of eyelid and orbital injuries. Miss Currie gave clear advice for juniors and general ophthalmologists, illustrated with 'before and after' photos. Next, Steve Morgan (Sunderland) delivered an update on the management of ocular chemical injuries, which included some novel evidence-based treatments for severe cases.

Two debates followed, around the subject of when and where surgery for severe ocular injuries should be performed. In the first, Izzy Mahomed (Bradford) argued for the motion that all trauma cases should go on the next elective list, while Richard Sheard (Sheffield) gave valid reasons to avoid delaying primary repair. In the second, Rob Scott (Birmingham) presented a strong case for referring ocular trauma to tertiary centres, but Jan van der Hoek (Scarborough) convinced the audience that most ocular trauma can be safely managed at the secondary care level.

Som Prasad (Wirral) then spoke about managing traumatic cataract and showed a number of surgical videos to illustrate some elegant techniques, which can be employed to make stressful situations easier. He reminded colleagues that all trauma cases are different and the surgeon

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must adapt to challenges, which may only become apparent peroperatively.

The presidency was handed over by Soonu Verghese to Steve Charles, who pointed out the current healthy state of the Society and was encouraging about its future.

Bernie Chang (Leeds) provided an update on commissioning and reminded the audience about the issues that lie ahead in the light of the proposed government health reforms. Mr Chang encouraged us all to engage with commissioners and get involved with planning services. The topic of revalidation seems to be always on the horizon and Rob Johnston (Cheltenham) outlined what clinicians should include in their portfolios, stating clearly that "Revalidation is coming in 2012". The importance of specialty-specific audit was stressed and delegates were encouraged to prospectively collect robust data to support their clinical activities.

The last session included the first NEOS video competition, won by Saurabh Ghosh from Sunderland, followed by video presentations of challenging cataract cases by some of the faculty. The quality of videos was high and there was opportunity for discussion after the cases. Bruno Zuberbühler (Manchester) gave the final talk, on apps for ophthalmologists. Most of the audience admitted to owning a smartphone or tablet so this seems to be an area that is relevant to all clinicians and is likely to expand over the next few years. ●



President Soonu Verghese.



Delegates at meeting.



Delegates at tea.

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