

# North of England Ophthalmological Society Autumn Meeting

**Venue:** Best Western Premier Mount Pleasant Hotel, Doncaster, UK  
**Date:** 19th October, 2012  
**Report by:** Dr Naz Raouf, ST6 Ophthalmology, Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

For the first time in almost a century, the North of England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS) autumn meeting was held in Doncaster, co-convened by Mr Gerry Jayamanne and Mr Tassos Kostakis. Members of the society were warmly welcomed to the meeting by Mr Gerry Jayamanne, who introduced a lively programme dedicated to the fields of neuro-ophthalmology in the morning and paediatric ophthalmology in the afternoon.

The morning began with an update on developments within the field of Stroke Medicine, given by Dr Peter Anderton (Stroke Physician, Doncaster). Changes in the structure and delivery of stroke services, including the importance of dedicated stroke units within hospitals and rapid access to stroke clinics, were discussed, as well as interesting improvements in techniques such as carotid stenting and the use of transcranial Doppler. Next to speak was Dr Simon Hickman (Consultant Neurologist, Sheffield), who entertained the audience with his presentation 'What's new in optic neuritis treatment?' As well as recapping the standard treatments for optic neuritis, the audience was expertly led through newer therapies in the field, such as natalizumab and fingolimod.

After the coffee break, Mr Phil Griffiths, who had journeyed all the way from Gibraltar to speak at the meeting, treated the audience to an invaluable presentation filled with clinical pearls on the investigation of patients with cranial nerve palsies. Next on the programme was an insight into the role of an orthoptist in the stroke service by Ms Tanzeela Rabbani (Orthoptist, Doncaster). The audience was particularly interested to hear of the potential benefits of such a service to patients, including shorter stays on hospital wards through faster rehabilitation and co-ordination of services.

To conclude the morning session on neuro-ophthalmology, Dr Naz Raouf (ST6, Sheffield) presented a case of severe idiopathic intracranial hypertension managed successfully by optic nerve sheath fenestration, while Dr Jayavani Myneni (Doncaster) discussed an unusual



The handover of the NEOS presidency from Steve Charles, Manchester, to Steve Winder, Sheffield.



NEOS President Steve Winder presenting Tom Betts from Abergele Hospital with the annual video competition prize.

case of central retinal artery occlusion secondary to Wegener's granulomatosis.

The afternoon session, chaired by Mr Tassos Kostakis (Doncaster), was dedicated to paediatric ophthalmology. Starting the paediatric programme was a fascinating talk on anisocoria in children, given by Ms Wendy Adams (Sunderland). Mr Ayad Shafiq (Newcastle) then addressed the challenging topic of retinopathy of prematurity, giving an insight into the complexities of managing this condition and emerging treatments in the field such as the use of Avastin. This was followed by a presentation on uveitis in juvenile idiopathic arthritis by Mr Vernon Long (Leeds), who shared his experience of managing children with this difficult disease.

Following the afternoon coffee break, the audience was treated to a discussion of the issues surrounding enucleation in paediatric patients by Mr Manoj Parulekar (Birmingham). Not only were the technical aspects of managing paediatric sockets post-enucleation covered, but the impact of this treatment upon patients and their families was highlighted.

The day ended with the much anticipated video symposium. The winning video 'How to make a low cost retinopathy model' earned Mr Tom Betts (Trainee, Abergele) the society's annually awarded video prize, although NEOS President Mr Stephen Winder acknowledged the high standard of all the submissions, before drawing a very enjoyable autumn meeting to a close.