

North of England Ophthalmological Society Spring Meeting 2012

Report by: Laura Wakely, Corneal Fellow, Yorkshire Rotation
Venue: Cedar Court Hotel, Leeds, UK
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With over 500 members, the North of England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS) is going from strength to strength and is now the best-attended ophthalmology meeting in the North of England. Our spring meeting in Yorkshire was convened by Bataung Mokete (Leeds) on a vitreoretinal (VR) theme. The meeting plunged straight into the posterior segment, with the management of dropped nucleus (Fiona Bishop, Leeds), which highlighted the importance of rehearsing a pre-determined management plan in liaison with the local VR surgeon. Complications of dropped nucleus were presented by Yashin Ramkissoon (Sheffield), discussing evidence that early vitrectomy is associated with better outcomes. Som Prasad (Wirral) then showed some interesting videos about secondary lens implantation, including scleral pocket and intrascleral haptic fixation techniques.

An overview of the current and future treatment of epi-retinal membrane (ERM) and vitreomacular traction (VMT) was given by Mark Costen (Hull). Alan Ang (Sheffield) discussed indications for and aims of diabetic vitrectomy, whilst Felipe Dhawahir-Scala (Manchester) talked about macular hole surgery, including macular buckling for myopic macular holes. These presentations achieved a good balance between educating and updating, whilst providing useful nuggets of information for the subspecialists present.

The annual free paper competition (won by Dr Tafadzwa Zvandasara, HM Stanley Hospital and Mr Andrew Davies, Bolton) and annual PJ Hay Essay prize (Mr AJ Patil, Lancaster) were of a high standard, showcasing the work of many promising regional trainees.

The afternoon session was more specialised, with an emphasis on surgical technique. Evolving trends in vitrectomy (Majed Habib, Sunderland) brought the focus on 27-gauge systems, widefield viewing systems, 'pharmacological vitrectomy' and many more emerging therapies. Complications



President Steve Charles (right) presenting Tom Williamson from St Thomas' Hospital the PJ Hay Medal.



in retinal detachment repair were presented by Ibraheim El-Grably (Middlesbrough), and properties of VR oils were discussed by Theodor Stappler (Liverpool), including the pathology of emulsification down to a cellular level. Niall Patton (Manchester) rounded off the session with a presentation on the imaging of vitreoretinal conditions. Supporting cases, images and videos in all these talks maintained a high tempo of interest and debate.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the PJ Hay Lecture, 'From PVD to PVR', delivered by Tom Williamson (St Thomas'). This was a

scenic canter through many areas of research and personal interest, including photopsia, location of retinal breaks, proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR) membrane peeling, visual loss following removal of oil and macular folds. He demonstrated eloquently how curiosity and collaboration with other disciplines can generate very interesting and relevant lines of enquiry.

Details of NEOS meetings can be found at www.neos.org.uk