

# North of England Ophthalmological Society's Spring Meeting

The well-attended spring meeting of the North of England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS) was held at Aintree Racecourse and convened by Mr Ahmed Kamal, Mr Austin McCormack and Mr James Hsuan, Consultants at Aintree University Hospital. The main themes were oculoplastics and retina and the annual free paper competition.

The first lecture of the day was 'Non surgical management of skin cancer' by Dr Niall Wilson, Consultant Dermatologist, Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust. A range of medications and modalities like photodynamic therapy were discussed. Factors to be considered when selecting specific treatments, their advantages and risks were highlighted.

Professor Christine Purslow was next speaking on blepharitis and the difficulties in managing this very common condition. She debated the lack of evidence behind the traditional advice of baby shampoo, bicarbonate of soda and warm compresses.

After the coffee break Mr McCormack and Mr Hsuan took the audience through a series of challenging oculoplastic cases. The common pitfalls in diagnosing 'Pseudotumor' and the importance of considering pathologies of lymphoproliferative nature in such scenarios were reiterated. The red flags in lid tumour presentation were expertly demonstrated by case discussions. Approach to diagnosis and management of lacrimal papillomas were summarised.

The delegates were then treated to rapid-fire presentations of very interesting papers on a wide variety of topics. The winning presentations were by Dr Neeru Vallabh

who discussed the current practices of vision screening in school, the validity of the screening results and other alternatives, and Dr Anindita Hom-Choudhury who spoke about an unusual case of non resolving epiphora caused by facial nerve agenesis.

The next session started with Mr Ajai Tyagi's engaging talk on the management of displaced intraocular lenses (IOL). Various methods of IOL delivery and implantation were demonstrated by surgical videos.

Mr Arvind Chandna and Dr Richard Hagan gave a fascinating joint talk on the changing role of electrophysiology in assessment of children. Various cases were discussed to highlight the clinical presentation, familial patterns and phenotypes of childhood retinal dystrophies.

Mr Brendan Moriarty detailed the role of intraocular telescopes in the management of age-related macular degeneration (ARMD). He explained how choosing the right patient and team approach are crucial in managing these patients.

The PJ Hay memorial lecture was delivered by Professor Simon Harding who spoke on 'New directions in the management of diabetic retinopathy'. It was a very comprehensive talk, calling attention to the evidence from recent trials and detailing treatment choices and protocols. Prognostic factors based on optical coherence tomography (OCT) findings were emphasised. This very enjoyable meeting was drawn to a close by the presentation of the PJ Hay medal to Prof Harding.

The next NEOS meeting is the summer meeting in Preston on Wednesday 3 June 2015.

**Date:**

11 March 2015

**Venue:**

Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool, UK

**Report by:**

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**Mr James Deady, President of NEOS presenting Dr Anindita Hom-Choudhury with her prize.**



**Mr James Deady, President of NEOS presenting Dr Neeru Vallabh with her prize.**