

North of England Ophthalmological Society Summer Meeting

The summer meeting of the North of England Ophthalmological Society (NEOS) took place in Preston this year and was convened by Kasra Taherian, Consultant Ophthalmologist from the Royal Preston Hospital. The programme included content that catered to a range of subspecialist interests presented by both local and international speakers.

Mr Soonu Verghese, the NEOS President, officially opened the meeting. The first presentation was by Bruno Zuberbuhler, Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. He gave a detailed explanation of how he used the 'analysis – comparison – optimisation' cycle to improve both laser and lens refractive surgery outcomes.

Teifi Jones, Consultant Ophthalmologist in Halifax, followed with an entertaining summary of the current management of a condition that he himself pointed out often fails to excite audiences – meibomian gland dysfunction. He spoke of the common mechanism underlying the effectiveness of ocular lubricant drops and discussed the misconceptions about local heat application.

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Corneal disease in the developing world was the topic of Jan Van de Hoek's presentation, a Consultant Ophthalmologist from Scarborough. After presenting his results from the first deep anterior lamellar keratoplasties performed in Cameroon he concluded that it is possible to do grafts in the 'bush hospital' setting but that there are numerous challenges.

Dr Fracois Majo, of Lausanne, Switzerland, gave a fascinating lecture about the cutting edge of corneal stem cell research. His team has developed a new model for the corneal stem-cell renewal mechanism and were the first to demonstrate corneal stem cells outside the limbal region. Zsolt Varga, a Trainee Ophthalmologist from York, described the benefits of using the femtosecond laser for endothelial keratoplasty in order to create a smooth interface.

James Innes gave a detailed update on the Royal College of Ophthalmologists planned e-learning projects and how they are progressing in this challenging economic climate. Current live e-learning courses are refraction and microsurgical skills but a basic ophthalmology induction course and laser course will be available soon. Kasra Taherian described the exciting work that is underway at the College on the world's first online encyclopaedia of ophthalmology – The Ophthalmopaedia. They both requested more contributions to The Ophthalmopaedia from the United Kingdom (UK) ophthalmic community.

Vikesh Patel, Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Royal Preston Hospital presented a comprehensive review of posterior approach pterygia surgery and ended with a description of the posterior approach white line advancement procedure.

Jon Bhargava, a Consultant in Chester explained, with the aid of numerous excellent videos and photos, why ophthalmologists doing lacrimal surgery should develop skills in nasal endoscopy. The technique itself was also described in detail.

The final talk was by Anna Bhargava who works as a Consultant in Preston. The principles underlying the various surgical techniques for the management of glaucoma were discussed, as well as the pros and cons of each procedure. She suggested that it is important to assess your own results to know what is best in your hands and what specific risks to discuss with your patients. ●

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The Society's next meeting will be held on 11th October, 2011 in Wakefield. The theme is 'trauma and beyond'. For further details visit at www.neos.org.uk



Delegates at the conference.