

North of England Ophthalmological Society Spring Meeting 2013

After starter's orders, we were off reviewing ophthalmic practice over the last 35 years. Our clerk of the course, Mr David Cottrell, provided an insightful reminder of 1978s routine 'hack-grab-squeeze-and-slosh' intracapsular cataract extraction (ICCE) and the highs and lows of surgical development that enabled day-case phaco and IOL. We were then entertained with a multimedia journey of 'Glaucoma Through the Tears' by Mr Peter Phelan, swiftly followed by Mr Kevin Stannard's interesting presentation on retinal detachment management since the condition was first viewed in 1851. To conclude the retrospectoscope section, Mr James Innes reviewed ophthalmic simulation, reminiscing how in 1978 "the first cataract operation I ever did was the second I ever saw". He then detailed the significant advances made with computer models and synthetic eyes and how they may assist our future revalidation.

Now a few furlongs in, the quick-fire annual free paper competition commenced with Mr Saurabh Ghosh winning with 'Lens-iris diaphragm repulsion syndrome during phacoemulsification in vitrectomised eyes'. Second past the post was Miss A Shafi with 'Doctor, my eye gets stuck!'; a case of ocular neuromyotonia due to parasellar radiotherapy. Further down the course, Mr

Venue: Newcastle Racecourse, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

Date: 27th February, 2013.

Report by: Dr James Laybourne, StR4 Ophthalmology, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.



Steve Winder, NEOS President, presenting Richard Keeler with the PJ Hay Medal.

David Cottrell was appointed Vice President during the Annual General Meeting, and the 2012 PJ Hay Essay Winner, Mr AJ Patil, presented 'The Role of Perivascular Melanophages Infiltrates in the Conjunctiva in

Sympathetic Ophthalmia'.

Into the home straight, the meeting focussed on future disease management and research. Dr Martin Duddy gave an encouraging update on multiple sclerosis therapies including natalizumab and fingolimod that both demonstrate improved relapse rates. However, we were warned of fingolimod-associated macular edema (FAME), particularly for uveitits and diabetics. Dr Phil Platt presented data comparing temporal arteritis imaging versus temporal artery biopsy, demonstrating >95% diagnostic confidence using temporal artery doppler ultrasound scanning. Prof John Isaacs then provided a fascinating update on immunological therapeutic targets trying to balance aggressor and regulatory cells in autoimmune disease. Following this, Mr Patrick Yu Wai Man gave a promising insight into mitochondrial disease research and how the results may not only assist Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy, but also improve our understanding of glaucoma.

Lastly, the RCOphth Honorary Curator, Mr Richard Keeler, astutely guided us through 'Instrument Ancestry: Genesis of the Ophthalmic Examination' for the PJ Hay Memorial Lecture, which brought us to the finishing post of a fascinating, insightful and encouraging meeting at Newcastle Racecourse.

The NEOS Summer Meeting (themes retina and glaucoma) will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Chester on Wednesday 12th June 2013.