A welcome from the Scientific Program Chair

by Ellen Stodola EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

Clement Tham, MD, Hong Kong, serves at the scientific program chair for the WOC. He said his role involves organizing the scientific program, which is roughly divided into two main parts: invited program and submitted program.

With the invited program, he said, the whole program is organized, assigned, and speakers are invited to form a coherent program. This part of the program includes 25 different subspecialty areas, Dr. Tham said, and in each subspecialty area, we have a group of four coordinators and each of them represents one area of the world. These four people work together and decide each subspecialty program and also decide the chairs and speakers of these programs, he added.

Apart from the invited program, is the submitted program, which consists of free papers, posters, submitted videos, and instruction courses. “We have a group of coordinators to coordinate this part of the program, and people can basically submit what they have been doing, their expertise, and areas they have special interests in, and then coordinators help coordinate the process of review and select the best of these for entry into the program,” Dr. Tham said.

Dr. Tham said there will be a great variety in presenters and topics at the meeting, as well as diversity in format of the sessions. For 2018, there are at least four new things, he said. These include the Breakfast Club sessions; new poster ports, where poster presenters will have opportunity to face delegates and share their posters; wet labs; and recorded programs, which will be available online to delegates.

“Normally, because there are so many sessions going on in parallel, you would miss a lot,” Dr. Tham said. “But by recording, you can be exposed to more parts of the program.”

Additionally, Dr. Tham stressed that there will also be sessions in Spanish on both the invited and submitted programs. He added that a session on late-breaking news will also include some of the hottest topics.
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that are changing. Big data, genetics, or others, there is such a richness of things to pick that it’s going to be hard to choose how you spend each hour of the day. “It’s a real challenge, but that’s one of the great joys of these meetings that there’s so much on,” he said.

In addition to onsite programming, Dr. Taylor added that this year many of the programs will be available online with a program called WOC OnDemand for those who have missed a session either because they are at a parallel session or because they couldn’t attend the WOC. “That’s a new innovation we’re bringing in which we really hope with be really helpful for many people around the world,” he said.

Dr. Taylor added that he went to his first WOC in 1982 in San Francisco. The program has evolved a lot since then, he said.

“We’ve got a whole day on sub-specialty areas now, he said, along with hands-on courses, live surgery, breakfast with the specialists, and more. “I think there’s lots of innovation there,” Dr. Taylor said. “And the standard that’s going to be presented is going to be fantastic.”

And, of course, the social events too will be terrific, Dr. Taylor added. “Barcelona is such a fascinating and interesting city to be in,” he said. There’s much to see and do in the city, but be sure not to miss the program, he added.

“One of the most important things that I think as time goes on, [is] it’s not only the science but also the friends and acquaintances you meet from all around the world,” Dr. Taylor said, adding that it brings such a richness to one’s experience to have the personal friendships and contacts with colleagues, as well as learning new approaches to problems. 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s happening today</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday’s events</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Femtosecond Laser Cataract Surgery – Pros, Cons, and Evidence</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 to 10:00 hrs. – Hall 8.0, Room 8</td>
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<td>This session will cover the rationale, pros/cons, and clinical evidence to be considered prior to adopting femtosecond laser.</td>
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| **Controversies in Cataract Surgery** |
| 10:30 to 12:00 hrs. – Hall 8.0, Room 8 |
| This session will feature talks and panel discussion on topics such as femto-phaco, intracameral antibiotics, EDOF vs. trifocals, and clear lens extraction. |

| **Updates in Global Eye Banking** |
| 14:00 to 15:30 hrs. – Hall 8.0, Room 9 |
| This session will focus on changes, challenges, and innovations in eye banking around the world. Topics covered will include disease transmission in corneal transplantation, developing global medical standards, microbiology tests, and more. |

| **Bernardo Streiff Medal Award Lecture of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI)** |
| 14:00 to 15:30 hrs. – Hall 8.0, Room 5 |
| This is awarded every 4 years to an ophthalmologist who has contributed most—through history, ethics, and education—to the advancement of ophthalmology. This year’s lecture will be given by Paul Lichter, MD, on the topic of “What Experience Has Taught Me About Glaucoma, Cataracts, and Owners of Medical Practice.” |

| **Refractive-Cataract/IOL Surgery – My Top 5 Pearls** |
| 16:00 to 17:30 hrs. – Hall 8.0, Room 8 |
| In this session, invited faculty each speak for 7 minutes on a practical topic relating to challenging refractive IOL situations. Each speaker will present their “Top 5 Pearls” for dealing with that situation. Topics to be covered include astigmatic keratotomy, toric IOL challenges, presbyopia-correcting IOL patient selection, monofocal monovision, post-LASIK patients, postop refractive enhancement, and managing unhappy refractive IOL patients. |

| **AOI Lecture: The Evolution of Surgical Technique in Cataract Surgery: The Challenge, the Conquest, the Optimization, the Future** |
| 16:00 to 17:30 hrs. – Hall 8.0, Room 24 |
| This session will cover situation analysis, demographics, strategies, costs, techniques, and technological topics that could help extending the success reached in greater parts of the world to other world regions still in need of improvement. The session will conclude with the AOI Lecture by Rafael Barraquer, MD, PhD. |

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<th>Opening Ceremony</th>
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<td><strong>Saturday, 16 June: 18:00 – 19:00</strong></td>
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<td>The WOC2018 officially begins with the Opening Ceremony. The program will include welcome remarks from the ICO, the Spanish Society of Ophthalmology (SEO), and the WOC2018 President, as well as the awarding of ICO and AOI medals. The Opening Ceremony is open to all registrants and will be held in Hall 8.1 at the Fira Gran Via Conference Center.</td>
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| The WOC2018 award recipients are: |
| **Gonin Medal:** Jean-Jacques DeLaey, MD, PhD (Belgium) |
| **International Duke Elder Medal:** Rubens Belfort, Jr., MD, PhD, MBA (Brazil) |
| **ICO Ophthalmic Pathology Award:** Sarah Coupland, MBBS, PhD, FRCPath, FARVO, FSB (United Kingdom) |
| **G.O.H. Naumann Award for Leadership in Global Eye Care Commission:** Abdulaziz AlRajhi, MD (Saudi Arabia) |
| **AOI Bernardo Streiff Medal:** Paul Lichter, MD (United States) |

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<th>WOC2018 Welcome Reception</th>
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<td><strong>Saturday, 16 June: 19:00 – 20:30</strong></td>
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<td>Say hello to both new and old colleagues at the Welcome Reception, which immediately follows the Opening Ceremony and is open to all registrants. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. To enter this event, you must wear your badge.</td>
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A note from the ICO Executive for Fellowships and what to know about the ICO Fellowships Program

Cordula Gabel-Obermaier, the ICO Executive for Fellowships, discussed the value of the ICO Fellowship Program. Her role involves receiving the applications for the program, staying in contact with all the candidates, contacting host institutions and sponsors, and serving as overall manager of the Fellowships Program.

Once the candidates have submitted their application files, she sends them over to a team to review. “I am the person who is the lucky one who can send out the awards afterwards,” she said, adding that she also assists the program candidates with any visa issues, writes appreciation letters to the sponsors, and more.

The Fellowships Program, which first began in 2001, has two application deadlines each year, she said. We collect applications, assess them, and then check the funds available for the fellowships, she added. “This is very important for people from developing countries,” Ms. Gabel-Obermaier said. “They often live on monthly salaries on something like $300–800 USD, and they would not be able to save so much money to live abroad.”

She added that those who receive these fellowships are committed to return to their home institutions and to bring benefits and newly acquired knowledge to their country and institutes. “We have training centers in India that are especially focused on cataract surgery training.” It makes a huge impact in these countries, she said, mentioning that many of these fellows are trainers who share the newly acquired skills and knowledge with their colleagues. The fellowship program is not just about the ophthalmic specialty and surgical skills, Ms. Gabel-Obermaier added. The fellows can also learn helpful tips on how to organize and structure their departments in a more efficient way. “What is really very important is that all our fellows are already specialists in ophthalmology and can look back on some good experience in their subspecialty,” she said.

As of last November, the ICO had given out more than 1,000 fellowships, Ms. Gabel-Obermaier said. Additionally, last year was the 15th anniversary, so they made a small publication to collect statements from both fellows and hosts. In addition to the 1,000 3-month fellowships, there have also been more than 30 1-year fellowships since 2010, she said. “We are very proud of these numbers.”

Ms. Gabel-Obermaier added that the ICO Fellowships Program is not only an exciting opportunity for those who receive the fellowships but also for the hosts. “It’s really an exciting experience to have these guest doctors from abroad on their team for 3 months,” she said, noting that many people express interest to the ICO about wanting to be a host in the program. “We are happy that we can still find many hosts that support us,” she said.

In many cases, the hosts and the fellows keep contact over a very long time, she added. “It’s about setting up a network and supporting over a long period of time.”

In order to evaluate the impact of the ICO Fellowships Program, Ms. Gabel-Obermaier said they recently started an evaluation survey, which about half of all the fellows completed. “We found out that the program is very well accepted,” she said, adding that more than 90% say they have benefited very much from the program in terms of diagnosis, treatment, surgical exposure, confidence gaining, etc.

During the WOC2018, those interested in the ICO Fellowships Program can take the opportunity to learn more. The ICO runs a booth and representatives are on hand to inform about the program, Ms. Gabel-Obermaier said. There will also be a symposium on the ICO Fellowships Program and ICO Exams. This will be an interesting educational session about what the ICO Exams are, about what the Fellowships Program is, about how to apply for those opportunities, and what the benefits are of both, she said.

What to know about the ICO Exams

The ICO Standard Exams, Ms. Quilter said, take place on one day in April and Advanced & Subspecialty Exams are taken in October, all around the world.

While onsite at WOC2018, there will be many resources for those who have questions about the upcoming exams and also many sessions pertaining to education within the ICO.

Ms. Quilter said that the ICO booth at the meeting will have more information about the ICO Exams and attendees can also apply there for the next exam.

She also mentioned a number of online resources that can be used, including a foundation assessment, three assessments linked to standard exams, and an ICO question app that just launched at the end of the 2017, featuring practice questions.

For those taking the foundation assessment online, Ms. Quilter said they are also asked how confident they are in the answer (if you get it correct and are really confident, you get extra points).

by Ellen Stodola EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor
A message from the ICO Director for Education

by Ellen Stodola  EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

Karl Golnik, MD, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S., the director for education with the ICO, previewed the upcoming WOC meeting in Barcelona, Spain, detailing some of the sessions that he’s involved with at the meeting.

“There’s going to be a lot going on,” he said. “But one thing I have a special interest in is the World Ophthalmic Education Colloquium.”

This World Ophthalmic Education Colloquium (WOEC) is a separate track for ophthalmic educators, Dr. Golnik said. During the WOC meeting, there will be a series of symposia aimed at improving educational effectiveness, he explained. These symposia may be of particular interest to the Ophthalmic Educators’ Group, he said, which is a group formed by the ICO. This group is comprised of over 800 members worldwide who are interested in improving their education skills and ability to train the next generation of ophthalmologists, Dr. Golnik added.

In addition to the symposia and other sessions on the WOC program focused on education, Dr. Golnik is also looking forward to some of the neuro-ophthalmic topics that will be discussed. He said he helped to plan the joint symposium between the ICO and the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS), which will be on “Practical Approach to the Patient with Diplopia.” The symposium will focus on patients who present with double vision and will feature discussion on symptoms and signs, as well as case presentations looking at diagnosis and evaluation of this issue. The symposium, Dr. Golnik said, is aimed at comprehensive ophthalmologists and how they can approach patients who come in complaining of double vision.

In addition to the sessions mentioned, there will be over 350 other sessions addressing all subspecialties organized by more than 90 national and subspecialty societies. Other highlights include hands on surgical courses and 3-D live surgery broadcasts.

EW
Robert Ritch Forum on Medicine of the Future to highlight nanotechnology, tissue engineering, and artificial intelligence

by Ellen Stodola  EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

Robert Ritch, MD, Shelley and Steven Einhorn Distinguished Chair at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, New York, New York, U.S., has been involved with the WOC and ICO as a member of the Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees for 16 years and took part in the organization of the WOC meetings as convener for glaucoma and other topics for many years, starting in 2006. In Abu Dhabi in 2012, he was responsible for over two dozen symposia on glaucoma and new technologies.

This year, he has organized the Robert Ritch Forum on Medicine of the Future: Nanotechnology, Tissue Engineering, and Artificial Intelligence. This invited symposium will take place on Sunday, June 17 from 10:30 to 12:00 hrs. in Hall 8.0, Room 6. The symposium will feature three presentations: “The Future of Nanotechnology in Medicine” by Carlo Montemagno, PhD, “Hacking Cell Biology to Create Human Tissue” by Zev Gartner, PhD, and “Artificial Intelligence in Ophthalmology” by Tien Yin Wong, MD.

He noted that the ICO has created a major thrust for global education, and the WOC meeting will also cover a variety of current topics, but he said that his symposium will focus on something different, particularly some speculations on future developments in medicine. “What I wanted to do was something on future concepts,” he said, particularly things that are going to affect ophthalmology, possibly 15–20 years from now. Dr. Ritch said he reads articles daily about current and future scientific developments, but what he really wanted to concentrate on in his symposium were new areas that are becoming increasingly important but may just be on the horizon of ophthalmology and medicine in general. People don’t yet really understand what these are and what the implications are for the future, he said. This led Dr. Ritch to choose the three main topics of his symposium: nanotechnology, creation of tissues and organs from stem cells, and artificial intelligence.

He noted that Dr. Montemagno had spoken previously at the WOC meeting in 2012 in Abu Dhabi about the coming nanotechnology revolution. Now that several years have passed, Dr. Ritch said he asked Dr. Montemagno to talk about where we stand now and the future of nanotechnology in medicine down the line.

Also during the session, Dr. Wong will give a presentation about artificial intelligence in ophthalmology. He has been working in artificial intelligence in retina and gave a lecture recently on artificial intelligence in diabetic retinopathy, Dr. Ritch said, adding that he asked Dr. Wong to talk about artificial intelligence in ophthalmology in general and how it is going to affect ophthalmology now and down the line.

The final topic is based on a study published by Dr. Gartner and others in Developmental Cell in December 2017, titled “Engineered Tissue Folding by Mechanical Compaction of the Mesenchyme.” According to the study summary by the researchers, they “use embryonic tissue explants, finite element modeling, and 3-D cell-patternning techniques to show that mechanical compaction of the extracellular matrix during mesenchymal condensation is sufficient to drive tissue folding along programmed trajectories.”

So why attend this specific symposium? Dr. Ritch said it’s important to expose attendees to new technologies and areas of focus coming down the line. Especially for younger ophthalmologists, he said, they may be dealing with these in 10–15 years. The technology is exploding, he said, and these three topics are “three developing fields that I think are going to pervade our lives in the future.”

WOC Cultural Night

Monday, 18 June: 20:30–23:30

This year’s Cultural Night is at Poble Espanyol, an open-air architectural museum at the foot of Montjuïc (5 kilometers from the Fira Gran Via)—a beautiful site that features a replica of the gate leading to the Castilian city of Avila.

Fun and festive, Cultural Night invites you to savor the flavors of Spain with sangria, jamón ibérico, and food from various regions of Spain. Take in the Catalan tradition of building human towers and performing horses. The night will close with dancing and a battle-of-the-bands between two musician-ophthalmologist groups: Camara IV and Double Vision.

Tickets are 95 euros per person and include dinner, drinks, entertainment, and transportation.
A welcome from the COO of the ICO

by Ellen Stodola  EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

Lindsey Washburn, COO of the ICO, discussed her role in the organization, the ICO as a whole, and the WOC2018 in Barcelona.

Ms. Washburn has been the COO of the ICO for just over a year but has been with the organization for 11 years. “I think part of why I like my job so much is because I get to do a lot of different things,” she said. This includes managing the ICO’s financials and budget, as well as working with the various ICO programs, NGO partners, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), said.

“The majority of what we do is education, and we put a lot under the umbrella of education,” Ms. Washburn said. This includes the ICO Exams, Fellowships Program, Teaching the Teachers Initiative, and more. “We view the WOC as part of our education cycle,” she said. “The scientific program is the platform for that.” Ms. Washburn noted that the program at WOC2018 will include the Teaching the Teachers program, which aims to improve the skills of people in charge of training residents and others within ophthalmology. Within that are a lot of programs, she said, like residency program directors’ courses, assessment tools, adult learning strategies, and more.

Ms. Washburn also stressed that the ICO is a membership-based organization, with more than 170 national, regional, and subspecialty societies. A lot of the work is done through these societies, she said.

“We also have an eye health component too,” she said. This includes international guidelines for areas like glaucoma, diabetic eye care, and current work on guidelines for ROP. We take a look at existing guidelines and then develop international guidelines that can be adapted by any country, she said. The guidelines look at low resource, middle resource, and high resource settings and how that would be applicable to any of those areas.

Collaboration with the WHO is also important, Ms. Washburn added, particularly in terms of advocacy and helping people talk to their ministers of health to allocate funds for eye care.

The last piece is society relations and leadership development, she said, which includes “helping societies in whatever way we can as a way to improve eyecare and build up local capacity in the country.”

“I think the strength of the WOC is that it brings together specialties, countries, and areas of interest throughout all the regions of the world as it changes location each time,” Ms. Washburn said. It’s really bringing that global collaboration together, she added.

Having the meeting in Barcelona is also a good draw, she said. It’s a great place to have a meeting because the city has a lot of energy. One thing about the WOC that I think a lot of people don’t know is that the income we generate from the meeting supports the programs of the ICO,” Ms. Washburn said.

“And so really for us, it’s important on a lot of levels, but that’s a very significant piece. Supporting the WOC is really supporting the programs of the ICO as well,” she said. 

EW
Barcelona Attractions

Check out some of the many attractions the city has to offer.

Camp Nou
C. d’Aristides Maillol, 12
With a capacity of almost 100,000, Camp Nou has been the home stadium for FC Barcelona since it was completed in 1957. Those who wish to visit the stadium might want to take the museum and stadium tour for 20 euros.

Casa Batlló
Passeig de Gràcia, 43
The Casa Batlló located today on Paseo de Gracia was remodeled between 1904 and 1906 by Antoni Gaudi while it was owned by Josep Batlló. It opened to the public in 1995 and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (last entry at 8:00 p.m.). Ticket prices range from 25 to 39 euros, depending on the ticket type chosen.

Casa Milà
Provença, 261-265
This was the last private residence designed by Antoni Gaudi. It was built between 1906 and 1912. It is also known as ‘La Pedrera,’ or “the stone quarry.” It is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Admission prices range from 22 euros to 41 euros.

Fundació Joan Miró
Parc de Montjuïc
This museum was created by Joan Miró and opened in June 1975. It features Miró’s work, as well as contemporary art. It’s open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. General admission is 12 euros.

Gothic Quarter
The Gothic Quarter is a popular spot to visit in the old city of Barcelona. It features several famous landmarks, including remains from Roman and medieval walls and the Roman Temple and the Barcelona Cathedral. The Gothic Quarter is also popular for those looking to explore shops and restaurants.

continued on page 10
A message from ICO Advisory Committee member

by Ellen Stodola, EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

Ana Gabriela Palis, MD, Buenos Aires, Argentina, serves as one of the coordinators of the WOC meeting, specifically helping to develop the World Ophthalmic Education Colloquium (WOEC).

This year, Dr. Palis said she is particularly excited that there will be sessions in both English and Spanish. “This will allow participants from Spanish speaking countries that have important academic developments to participate and share in a world congress,” she said.

Dr. Palis added that the location of Barcelona combines modern architecture with a beautiful Mediterranean landscape and fantastic weather. “Barcelona is one of the most beautiful cities in the world,” she said.

Dr. Palis particularly noted her involvement in the WOEC program and said that these are some important sessions to highlight for the meeting. The WOEC is a series of symposia and instruction courses of interest for anyone with a role in ophthalmic education, teaching and training residents, subspecialty fellows, allied ophthalmic personnel, medical students, and more, she said. EW

La Sagrada Família
Carrer de Mallorca, 401
La Sagrada Família still remains unfinished, with estimates that work will be concluded on the temple between 2026 and 2028. It was designed by Antoni Gaudi, who spent over 40 years designing it. Construction first began in 1882. Currently, construction of the six central towers of the basilica is ongoing, and the site’s website suggests that work is about 70% on the basilica. Ticket prices range from 15 to 29 euros, depending on which experience you choose. Some tours include entrance to the towers.

Museu Picasso
Carrer Montcada, 15-23
This museum boasts one of the most extensive collections of art by Pablo Picasso, with 4,251 of the artist’s works. The museum opened in 1963 and features many works up to the Blue Period, as well as the Las Meninas series. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays) and is closed on Mondays. A general price ticket is 12 euros, with some opportunities for reduced prices or days that are free of charge.

Palau de la Música Catalana
C/ Palau de la Música, 4-6
The Palau de la Música Catalana was built between 1905 and 1908 by Lluis Domènech i Montaner as a home for the Orfeó Catalá. It’s located in the Sant Pere district and is listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitors may choose to take a guided tour of this concert venue, which range from 20 to 30 euros.

Palau Nacional
This was the main site of the 1929 Barcelona International Exhibition. It features a large Spanish Renaissance building with a large staircase, and the Parc de Montjuïc/Magic Fountain is also located here. Additionally, The Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya has also been located here since 1934. The museum boasts ‘the best collection of Romanesque mural painting in the world.’ The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sundays and public holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. General admission is 12 euros.

Park Güell
Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (last entry at 8:30 p.m.), Park Güell is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that attracts many visitors. The Monumental Core is particularly popular and requires a ticket for entrance. A general ticket is 8.50 euros (or 7.50 euros if purchased online).

Santa Maria del Mar
Plaça de Santa Maria
Santa Maria del Mar is a large church in the Ribera district that first opened in 1384. Over the years, the basilica has seen various forms of destruction, including a fire in 1936 when it burned for 11 days, destroying the altar and many images. It has since been restored and is known for its Gothic style architecture. The basilica is open daily, with various mass times, as well as tour opportunities. EW
AOI Lecture preview

by Ellen Stodola EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

The OR. “As doctors, we should keep cultivating our human relations with our patients, something that no machine will ever be able to do,” he said. EW

Dr. Barraquer said that technology has brought a great progress in cataract surgery. However, he suggested that, one day, machines might end up replacing surgeons in the OR. “As doctors, we should keep cultivating our human relations with our patients, something that no machine will ever be able to do,” he said. EW

On Saturday, Rafael Barraquer, MD, PhD, Barcelona, Spain, will give the AOI Lecture during a session on “Challenges to Cataract Surgery in 2018.” The session will take place from 16:00 to 17:30 hrs. in Hall 8.0, Room 24, and Dr. Barraquer’s lecture will focus on “The Evolution of Surgical Techniques in Cataract Surgery: The Challenge, the Conquest, the Optimization, the Future.”

Dr. Barraquer shared information on some of the points his lecture will highlight. He noted that he will review the historical development of cataract surgery, with the purpose of gaining insight and helping to predict what’s to come in the future.

“Cataract surgery evolved from the initial paradigm of simply moving the obstacle aside without removing it (couching) to the actual extraction—a process that took several millennia,” he said.

“From there, we have optimized the procedure, first conquering the total extraction (intracapsular) and then back to partial extraction (extracapsular) to be able to safely implant an IOL.” More recently, Dr. Barraquer said that technology has kicked in with improvements of machines, lasers, and more, as well as refinement of IOLs.

“The major challenge remains the fact that almost half of the world blindness remains the consequence of cataracts,” Dr. Barraquer said. “Since we can treat very effectively cataracts, this is mostly a logistical problem.”

Another issue, he said, is the degree of functional restoration.

“We excel at removing the visual obstacle [and] are very good at correcting the basic optical (refractive) status but still have only partial results at giving a perfect unaided vision at all distances.”

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Visit the OnDemand Desk:
North Entrance Lobby, WOC Registration Area

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€685 | €190*
Eduardo Mayorga, MD.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, the director for e-learning with the ICO, discussed what he’s most looking forward to at WOC2018.

Dr. Mayorga said he’s looking forward to meeting with old friends from all over the world and making new ones at the multiple networking events scheduled throughout the meeting. He also said he looks forward to sharing his knowledge with those who have common interests. This year, Dr. Mayorga participated in the Program Format Development Subcommittee and was a reviewer for papers to be presented at the WOC2018. He added that he is particularly looking forward to the sessions pertaining to medical education and training.

Dr. Mayorga wanted to draw attention to some of the hands-on courses, as well as this year’s WOC OnDemand, which offers attendees the opportunity to experience more than 500 hundred hours of recordings to review or catch up on things they missed at the meeting.

In addition to the many interesting sessions the meeting has to offer, Dr. Mayorga also emphasized that attendees can enjoy the city. “Barcelona is a beautiful city with lots of tourist attractions that makes it worthwhile to extend your stay some days beyond the congress,” he said. EW
Global Bioethical Framework launches at WOC

by Ellen Stodola EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

Graeme Pollock, MD, Melbourne, Australia, discussed the Global Bioethical Framework, which officially launched at the WOC2018. He also highlighted a symposium focusing on eye banking, set to take place during Saturday’s sessions at WOC.

What is the Global Bioethical Framework?

Dr. Pollock said that this document is designed to help policy makers, surgeons, eye bankers, scientists, and researchers implement and retain ethical standards when using donated human tissue for transplantation, training, and research. “It is based on ensuring we meet global recommendations on a wide range of protocols.”

This has been a sectorial intent since the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations (GAEBA) was established in 2014, Dr. Pollock said. “The community felt we needed to have something global,” he said. “The increase in transnational movement of corneal tissue and continued development and expansion of eye banking around the world now makes this an interconnected and global undertaking.”

In particular, he said there was much concern regarding commodification of corneas—a humanitarian gift being turned into an object of trade, driven by “for-profit motives” and accompanied by an emerging “market mentality.”

“With the Barcelona Principles, the global community has made a clear statement—commodification in eye banking is not ethically acceptable,” Dr. Pollock said. “The global ophthalmic and eye banking community believes that the donation is a resource for the shared benefit of all, and we should not compromise on issues of human dignity, autonomy, and justice.”

With the advent of technological and scientific developments, we also found that more researchers, not just in the corneal field, are requesting human ocular tissue for research purposes, he said. “We wanted to ensure the document covered tissue for research for those needs too. We wanted to ensure scientific and technical advancements were not only possible but also advanced and encouraged, without ethical compromise.”

GAEBA agreed to develop this document during the Asia Cornea Society meeting in South Korea at the end of 2016, he said. The project commenced in May 2017, with the final draft ratified in February 2018 for launch in June 2018.

What does this mean for ophthalmologists and those involved with tissue donation around the world?

This is an opportunity where our eye banking and ophthalmology communities can come together in solidarity. Dr. Pollock said, preserving the rights of donors and the needs of recipients worldwide.

“Spain is also a special location within the human biological sector, as they are world leaders in organ transplantation,” he said. “Launching this document in Spain is monumental to the Spanish and to our sector. We have had enormous support from the locals and I would like to acknowledge our launch event hosts: Barraquer Ophthalmology Centre; the Barcelona Tissue Bank; and the European Eye Bank Association.”

How important is it that this is a collaboration of many societies around the world?

Dr. Pollock added that it’s extremely important that this is a collaboration from different societies around the world. “We are an inter-connected sector and an inter-connected world,” he said. “The movement of tissue across borders increases this.”

Developing a resource in isolation would not solve local, regional, and global equitable allocation needs, Dr. Pollock added. “We knew we needed to tackle this as a global united community and we wanted to make sure the document was realistic and practical for low- and high-resource countries, those with or without routine access to tissue, and those in decision-making positions,” he said. “This is truly a document written by the community for the community.” The document will be available after the launch (June 14th) via: www.gaeba.org/publications/, Dr. Pollock said.

GAEB session on “Updates in Global Eye Banking”

Dr. Pollock also discussed a session to be sponsored by the GAEBA on Saturday, June 16 at the WOC meeting. The symposium will highlight the topic of “Updates in Global Eye Banking.” We developed the session to attract diverse delegate interests, he said, from a wide range of backgrounds and resource levels. There is something for scientist-clinicians, eye bankers, and development experts, both novice and experienced. The chairs and panel represent a range of countries too, he said.

“We have a mixture of updates on existing technologies and future technologies,” Dr. Pollock said. “We hope that by bringing together a wide cross-section of the community that there will be opportunities for networking after the event too.”

References

4. World Health Organization (WHA63.22). Guiding principles on human cell, tissue and organ transplantation. 2010. Available at: www.who.int/healthtopics/PrinciplesTransplantation_WHA63.22en.pdf?ua=1

The launch of the Global Bioethical Framework took place on Thursday ahead of WOC2018.
ICO Ophthalmic Pathology Award
and Naumann Lecture preview

by Ellen Stadola EyeWorld Senior Staff Writer/Digital Editor

Sarah Coupland, MD, PhD, Liverpool, U.K., will receive this year’s ICO Ophthalmic Pathology Award and give the corresponding Naumann Lecture. She shared a preview of her lecture with EyeWorld and discussed her work in the ophthalmic pathology field.

Her lecture is titled “The Art of the Possible.” In the lecture she will be addressing how there has been a revolution over the last decade in technologies applied in pathology, particularly in molecular pathology, which has led to major advances in understanding of disease. “This has touched all areas of pathology, including eye pathology and ocular tumors,” she said, adding that she will be speaking about how it is possible to apply these technologies to even the smallest of samples to obtain significant amounts of information that can be applied for diagnostic, predictive, and prognostic purposes.

Dr. Coupland trained in medicine in Sydney, Australia, before performing research and receiving her PhD in ophthalmology. “Whilst this PhD was attributed to the University of Sydney, I did most of the work at the Charlie Benjamin Frank- lin Hospital, where there was a specialty referral center for adult and children ocular oncology, as well as for hematopathology.” She added that she emerged from this training with expertise in a wide range of tumors, particularly those affecting the head and neck, as well as the lymphoid system.

Dr. Coupland’s areas for research also reflect her training. Her associate professor thesis concentrated on the ocular adnexal and intraocular lymphomas. And when she moved from Berlin to Liverpool in 2005, she established the “Liverpool Ocular Oncology Research Group” (LOORG; www.loorg.org). “Liverpool is one of the three referral centers for adult ocular oncology and particularly for ocular melanoma,” she said. “Hence, my research group LOORG has a major focus on uveal melanoma—both primary and metastatic disease.”

She added that the group collaborates closely with the clinicians involved in the complete treatment pathway as well as with patients. Because of this, she said they have been able to establish a unique ocular oncology biobank, which has enabled research and collaboration with centers in Europe, the U.S., and Asia.

Dr. Coupland also mentioned that she has great respect for Professors Gottfried and Lieselotte Naumann, who she has known for over 20 years. She noted that they were supportive of her decision to train in pathology and are both also key figures in promoting the field of ophthalmic pathology.

“I am extremely honored to receive the 2018 ICO Ophthalmic Pathology Award, gifted by the Gottfried and Lieselotte Naumann Foundation,” Dr. Coupland said.

WOC2018 Scientific Program Highlights

In addition to ICO special sessions and society-organized sessions, the Congress offers an array of educational activities to appeal to everyone.

WOC2018 is offering surgical skills training courses. Develop your techniques in a wet lab environment, and gain experience with the latest ophthalmologic technology—including a chance to perform a virtual simulated surgery. Each course has a limited number of participants.

Join your colleagues for an educational breakfast, where experts lead discussions on hot topics and the latest trends, encouraging you to question assumptions and fully engage in the learning experience.

New for WOC2018, nearly the entire scientific program—more than 500 hours of presentations—will be available online at WOC2018 OnDemand. Add on this CME-eligible learning opportunity for a low price of 190. This special rate is only available to registered WOC2018 delegates.

“Late Breaking News”

These abstracts highlight results from rapidly advancing investigations that may have only recently become available.

3D Live Surgery

Experience cutting-edge surgery in real time on Monday, 18 June. Watch and learn as expert ophthalmologists at the Barraquer Institute use the latest techniques and tools to perform corneal transplantation, as well as cataract, refractive, micro-invasive glaucoma, vitreoretinal, and other surgeries on patients. An on-site facilitator will describe the procedures as they happen, and attendees at the Fira Gran Via Convention Center will be encouraged to engage and ask questions.

Sessions for Ophthalmic Educators

The ICO World Ophthalmic Education Colloquium (WOEC) offers symposia and workshops spotlighting a variety of educational techniques. WOEC is designed for a diverse audience—from trained educators to practicing ophthalmologists interested in education.

ICO World Ophthalmology Quiz and
Cataract Surgery Olympics

Fun team events are popular at the WOC, and 2018 will feature two fan favorites. The ICO World Ophthalmology Quiz pits teams of residents and fellows against one another, each vying to prove who is the most eye smart in a series of increasingly challenging rounds. Which team will receive the crown at WOC2018? Then, ophthalmologists will go for the gold at the WOC Cataract Surgery Olympics, where teams representing different regions (North America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe/Middle East) compete in a video program demonstrating management of cataract complications.

WOC2018 Exhibit Hall

Over 125 companies and ophthalmic organizations will offer a first-hand opportunity to meet with industry and gain an understanding of the latest advances in pharmaceuticals, imaging devices, technologies, and available services to help you better provide high-quality patient care.
Clinical tips and techniques from leading ophthalmologists from around the world

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Outstanding image quality
Equipped with an ultra-sensitive camera the new IM 900 produces images of exceptional quality even under difficult light conditions.

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Fast and accurate automatic exposure control allows simple image capturing while you are concentrating on the patient.

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EyeSuite makes your slit lamp networkable both with other Haag-Streit devices and your practice network.