

Medal and Award Recipients to be Honored at WOC2016 Opening Ceremony

February 8, 2016

San Francisco, California, USA – The [International Council of Ophthalmology \(ICO\)](#) recognized outstanding leaders in ophthalmology at the opening ceremony of the 2016 World Ophthalmology Congress® of the ICO in Guadalajara, Mexico, on February 5.

“The award and medal recipients are individuals who are contributing to their field and doing outstanding work in ophthalmology,” said Dr. Hugh Taylor, ICO President, “and the ICO is pleased to recognize their achievements.”

The **Jules François Golden Medal** recognizes ophthalmologists conducting outstanding work of the highest scientific quality in a subspecialty of ophthalmology not represented by other ICO Medals.

Recipient: Clare Gilbert, MB ChB, FRCOphth, MD, MSc

Professor Clare Gilbert is a vitreoretinal surgeon who is recognized for her research work on blindness and eye disease. At the International Centre for Eye Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Professor Gilbert focuses on eye health in low and middle-income countries. Her main research interest is blindness in children, and current projects include collaboration with colleagues in Latin America, Africa, and Asia integrating primary eye care for children into maternal and child health clinics in Tanzania; clinical trials for refractive error in Indian school children; and an analysis of factors that led to the decline in blindness in Argentina due to retinopathy of prematurity.

The **Bietti Medal** is awarded every four years to a distinguished ophthalmologist doing outstanding work in glaucoma, in recognition of scientific and educational contribution in ophthalmology, and for facilitating international communications in the ophthalmic community.

Recipient: Sir Peng Khaw, PhD, FRCS, FRCP, FRCOphth, FRCPATH, FRSB, FCOptom (Hon), DSc, FARVO, FMedSci

Professor Sir Peng Khaw has proposed innovative programs to combat glaucoma; developed anti-scarring regimens that have led to international clinical trials; and created new surgical techniques that have improved patient safety and outcomes. He is developing new anti-scarring drugs and delivery systems, as well as drainage devices, and he recently proposed the 10-10-10 challenge for glaucoma worldwide: an intraocular pressure of 10 mmHg for 10 years done in 10 minutes. Professor Khaw published the ‘energy’ theory of glaucomatous axonopathy, helping move towards stem cell regenerative therapies for the optic nerve. He is the recipient of prestigious awards, including being honored with a knighthood for his service to ophthalmology.

The **Tadeusz Krwawicz Gold Medal** is awarded for advancing international relationships among ophthalmologists and doing outstanding surgical work in cornea, cataract, and diseases of the anterior segment, including the introduction of new technologies.

Recipient: Marie-José Tassignon, MD, PhD, FEBO

Dr. Marie-José Tassignon is recognized for her exceptional work creating connections and working relationships with ophthalmologists around the world. She was President and Past-President of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons from 2004 until 2007; she is a member of 18 international societies in ophthalmology and a board member for five of the societies; and she has served as Chair for the International Academy of Ophthalmology and the European Academy of Ophthalmology. Dr. Tassignon has had seven patents approved, and the technologies she created and the related techniques developed, have improved surgical and patient outcomes, and are accepted worldwide.

The **Bruce Spivey Ophthalmic Education Award** is presented to an ophthalmologist doing outstanding work in global education who, through innovation, development, or application, has significantly advanced ophthalmic education in a manner that enhances eye care and the preservation of vision.

Recipient: David S. Taylor, FRCOphth, DSc(Med)

Professor David Taylor is Professor Emeritus of the Institute of Child Health at the University College London and is a co-author of the widely respected and highly reviewed book *Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, 4th Edition*. As Director for the ICO Examinations, Professor Taylor concentrated on modernizing, developing, rationalizing, and promoting the ICO's current examinations and developing new examinations. His successful aim was to produce a world class, universally affordable and economically run series of ophthalmology examinations that support improvements in standards of ophthalmology practiced worldwide. Today, the ICO Examinations are offered at 115 test centers in 65 countries, with more than 7,000 exams taken in 2015.

The **ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award** is awarded to an individual for demonstrated innovation or exceptional achievements in ophthalmic education, and who has advanced, advocated, and worked towards improvement of education in the region.

Recipient: Richard Abbott, MD

Dr. Richard Abbott is an internationally renowned ophthalmologist who treats patients with corneal and external diseases of the eye. Dr. Abbott is the Thomas W. Boyden Health Sciences Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and Research Associate at the Francis I. Proctor Foundation. Dr. Abbott was responsible for establishing the refractive surgery clinical and research program at UCSF. In addition to research and teaching, Dr. Abbott is known for his leadership in the definition of clinical practice guidelines, development of cognitive knowledge modules, and ethics regarding eye care and eye surgery.

About the International Council of Ophthalmology:

The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) represents and serves professional associations of ophthalmologists throughout the world. The ICO works with ophthalmologic societies and others to enhance ophthalmic education and improve access to the highest quality

eye care in order to preserve and restore vision for the people of the world. For more information, see www.icoph.org.

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