ONE of the integral features of the World Ophthalmology Congress® is the Medal Awards presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in various fields of ophthalmology.

At the WOC Opening Ceremony, the Bietti Medal and Tadeusz Krwawicz Gold Medal were presented to Rosario Brancato, MD and Alan Charles Bird, MD respectively.

The Bietti Medal and Tadeusz Krwawicz Gold Medal are awarded by the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Board every four years. The Bietti Medal recognizes ophthalmologists who facilitate international communications in the ophthalmic community.

The 2012 recipient, Professor Rosario Brancato was honoured for his pioneering work utilizing imaging techniques and lasers to treat patients with retinal and macular diseases.

Dr Brancato, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the School of Ophthalmology at the University Hospital San Raffaele in Milan has authored several textbooks and monographs and over 940 articles in scientific journals over the course of his career.

He is also Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Ophthalmology. He will deliver a memorial lecture commemorating G. B. Bietti in Rome, where he will be received by the Fondazione Bietti.

The other key award, the Tadeusz Krwawicz Gold Medal, recognizes those who have made advances in diseases of the anterior segment and/or introduction of new technologies as well as having advanced international relationships among ophthalmologists.

The recipient Professor Alan Charles Bird, MD received the honour in recognition of his work in advancing the understanding of macular degeneration and retinal dystrophies, including work on sickle cell disease in Jamaica, and also the development of a new standard of treatment for river blindness in Africa.

Dr Bird is one of the world’s experts on the treatment of retinal vascular disease and genetic and degenerative retinal disorders. He has published numerous papers, and his research has contributed to important breakthroughs in the understanding of retinal disease such as retinal dystrophies and age-related macular disease.

Although Dr Bird has retired from full-time clinical practice, he continues his research and teaching as the Emeritus Professor at London University and Honorary Consultant, Moorfields Eye Hospital. Dr Bird will present the Tadeusz Krwawicz Memorial Lecture at the national meeting of the Polish Ophthalmological Society.

President Professor Shikgeaki Ohno, MD, PhD was presented with the G.O.H. Naumann Award in recognition of his work in the areas of ocular allergology, ocular infectious conjunctivitis, uveitis and ocular inflammation.