

## **European Society of Ophthalmology Young Ophthalmologists**

SOE YO Activities, SOE/AAO Congress, Geneva, 4-7<sup>th</sup> June 2011

### ***Think or Sink: avoiding complications in cataract surgery***

This symposium, organised by the SOE YO committee and directed at young ophthalmologists training in cataract surgery, was hugely popular. It was so well attended, there were many participants who stood at the back and sides due to lack of seats. The SOE YO committee were able to ask participants to fill in a questionnaire about surgical training in their countries. The results of these were presented at the second SOE/AAO YO symposium. The session was chaired by Brian Little and Larry Benjamin. The following topics were covered:

- Surgical complications: how we learn and why we fail
- The small pupil: when and how to enlarge
- Capsular staining: indications and techniques
- Rhexis retrieval: the life-saver
- Zonular deficiency: CTRs and capsule anchors
- Vitreous loss: prevention and management

### ***Young ophthalmologists in international ophthalmology***

*Moderators: Goran Bencic (Croatia), Ioana Rusu (Romania) Robert Melendez (US)*

This symposium was presented jointly with the American Academy of Ophthalmology YOs. The session was co-moderated by members of the SOE and AAO YO committees, and speakers were arranged by both committees. The session was well attended, and the interest generated by the YOs in the audience for this non-clinical programme was very encouraging. The symposium aimed to highlight emerging issues for YOs in ever globalising world we live in. Topics covered included the implications of EU Law on practice and education, and how YOs can more closely collaborate within Europe and across continents. The results of the questionnaire administered at the first SOE YO symposium were presented. The programme was as follows:

- Diversity in surgical training across Europe: what is the state of play?
- EBO: exams, logbooks and residency exchange
- UEMS: what happens after we become licensed – the difficulties!
- How to arrange a fellowship in the United States
- From Europe to the UK – how to arrange training abroad
- The impact of universal healthcare in the United States for young ophthalmologists
- AAO young ophthalmologists: the evolution and the future

### ***SOE YO Lounge***

The YO Lounge was a room exclusively for the use of YOs during the congress, to relax in comfortable surroundings, help themselves to food and refreshments, hold meetings, make use of the computers, and meet fellow YOs from across the globe. This was a huge success and, at busy periods, the lounge was completely full. We received extremely positive feedback, and we think many connections were made in the lounge during the 4 days of the congress. Certainly, strong connections were made between SOE YOs and AAO/MEACO YOs who met in the lounge. An exciting joint session of SOE, AAO and MEACO YOs was conceived and developed for the World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC) scheduled for February 2012 in Abu Dhabi, taking the form of a chat-show! See the upcoming events section for more details of what is planned.



### ***SOE YO Reception***

The YO reception was very well attended by YOs representing all corners of Europe. SOE and UEMS leadership also attended and mingled with the YOs. Anthony Khawaja, chair of the SOE YO committee addressed the attendees, as did Stefan Seregard, later to be announced as new SOE president. Also in attendance to meet

and greet YOs was the incoming SOE Secretary General Thomas Fenech. Again, this event was an excellent opportunity for international connections to be made, and enthusiasm drummed up for pro-actively tackling the issues the ophthalmic profession and YOs face in the globalising world.

***We are extremely grateful to Allergan who sponsored the SOE YO events at the congress in Geneva.***

## **Upcoming SOE YO Events**

### **Modern Technologies and Techniques for Young Ophthalmologists to Know**

*Joint AAO/SOE/COS Symposium, AAO Annual Meeting, Orlando, 2011*

The symposium will focus on novel surgical approaches and therapeutic options that young ophthalmologists should recognize as present alternatives of the management of diseases of the eye. The joint session will include particular strategies for the treatment of various ocular diseases that are most commonly applied in Europe, the United States and Canada, and usually not shared between these geographical areas. This will expand the options for YOs to decide which strategies should be adopted in their own clinical/surgical practices.

SOE YO will be co-chairing the session, and providing 3 of the speakers.

### **Education Without Borders (working title)**

*Joint SOE/AAO/MEACO YO Symposium, WOC Meeting, Abu Dhabi, 2012*

This symposium is the fruit of discussion that took place in the SOE YO Lounge in Geneva. The SOE YO committee met members of the MEACO YO committee and AAO, and the concept of this session was born and developed. It was decided the session would be in the form of a chat-show, rather than traditional lecture format. Chat-show guests will come from SOE, AAO and MEACO regions, and topics covered will include:

- Setting up residency programmes in the Middle East – The Arab Board
- Opportunities and resources available for establishing residency programmes
- EBO – Europe harmonising ophthalmic education
- Arranging a fellowship abroad – pearls and pitfalls
- Surgical training – how do we set the standards?
- Modern social media in ophthalmology



