



THE ART OF CORNEA

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND CORNEA SOCIETY

41ST ANZCS MEETING
5-6 MARCH 2026

SWISSÖTEL, 68 MARKET STREET, SYDNEY

GUEST SPEAKER:

ALAIN SAAD, MD

ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION HOSPITAL, FRANCE

PROGRAM

Day 1 - Thursday, 5 March 2026

Theme: Corneal Innovation, AI,
and Advanced Transplantation



8:30 - 9:00am - Registration and Coffee		
9:00 - 9:45 Session 1: Cornea Without Borders: Lessons from International Fellowships Chairs: Dr John Males and Dr Yves Kerdraon		
9:00 - 9:15 - Welcome and opening remarks		
9:15 - 9:25	Dr Vanessa Leung	Returned Fellow Talk
9:25 - 9:35	Dr Capucine Oduard	Returned Fellow Talk
9:35 - 9:45	Raj Devasahayam	Photo session and Award for Best Clinical Cornea Photo -The Raj Devasahayam Award
9:45 - 10:15	The Douglas J Coster Lecture Dr Alain Saad - Invited Guest Lecturer	
10:15 - 11:00 Session 2: Keratoconus in 2026: Progression, Prediction, and Precision Chairs: Dr Carolyn Ross and Prof Chameen Samarawickrama		
10:15 - 10:23	Dr Jie Bai	Therapeutic Outcomes of Different Management Strategies in Acute Corneal Hydrops
10:23 - 10:31	Dr Meiding Wang	Flap-Inclusive Topography-Guided PRK with Corneal Cross-Linking for Post-LASIK Ectasia: A Case Report
10:31 - 10:37		Q & A
10:37 - 10:45	Dr Qingyan Zeng	Predictors of Progression in Fellow Eyes of Unilateral Keratoconus: A Cohort Study
10:45 - 10:53	Prof Stephanie L Watson	Delphi Panels in Corneal disease: What do we need to know in 2026?
10:53 - 10:59		Q & A
11:00 - 11:30 - Morning Tea		

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11:30 - 13:00 | Session 3: Redefining Corneal Transplantation: Innovation at the Endothelium

Chairs: Dr Athena Roufas and Dr Alex Hamilton

11:30 - 12:00	Dr Alain Saad	Invited Talk: DMEK: From Simple to Complex Cases
12:00 - 12:10		Q & A
12:10 - 12:20	Dr Shaowei Li	Bandage contact lens–assisted DMEK for corneal endothelial decompensation with an artificial iris: A case report
12:20 - 12:30	Dr Gink Yang	Targeting early stage FECD with fibroblast growth factor 7
12:30 - 12:40	Dr Nour Barakat	The effect of donor related factors on the rate of post op graft detachment and primary graft failure in DMEK
12:40 - 12:50	Dr Kaela Braue	Effect of graft thickness on clinical outcomes of Descemet stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty (DSAEK)
12:50 - 13:00	Prof Minas Coroneo	Anterior Segment Malperfusion Syndrome
13:00 - 13:10	Dr Peter Beckingsale	Cornea Society AGM
13:10 - 14:00 - Lunch		

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14:00 - 15:00 | Session 4: Keratitis on the Frontline: Surveillance, Science, and Solutions

Chairs: Prof Stephanie Watson and Dr Luke Northey

14:00 - 14:10	Dr Maria Aguas	The Bacterial Ocular Surveillance System (BOSS): preliminary results from the 2019-2024 national report
14:10 - 14:20	Dr Jing Lu	Cytomegalovirus Corneal Endodermatitis After Descemet's membrane endothelial keratoplasty: A Case Report
14:20 - 14:30	Dr Colby Hart	Corneal impression membranes - a replacement for corneal scraping in microbial keratitis?
14:30 - 14:40	Dr Ajay Kumar Vijay	Bacteriophage-antibiotic synergy to treat bacterial keratitis
14:40 - 14:50	Dr So-Yin Koay	Comparison of Corneal Scrapes and Impression Membranes for Diagnosing Microbial Keratitis
14:50 - 15:00	Dr Nicole Carnt	Clinical presentation, genotypic diversity, and intracellular bacteria in Acanthamoeba keratitis patients treated at a quaternary referral Eye Hospital in Sydney, Australia

15:00 - 15:30 - Afternoon Tea

15:30 - 16:30 | Session 5: Corneal Controversies: Challenging Dogma in 2026

Chairs: Dr Noni Lewis and Prof Gerard Sutton

15:30 - 15:50	Dr Alain Saad	Invited Talk: Keratopigmentation: Always a bad idea?
15:50 - 16:10	A/Prof Con Petsoglou	Ortho-Ks – Worth it or Worst of?
16:10 - 16:30	Dr Elsie Chan	A clear or cloudy future for cornea?

16:30 - 17:30 | Session 6: Emerging Research in Cornea: Poster Presentation

Guests are invited to review and quiz the authors of our first poster session while enjoying Wine and Cheese.

Judges: Prof Gerard Sutton and Dr Doug Parker will judge the winner of the best poster and announce the prize at 17:25

18:30 – 22:00– Conference Dinner

Business/Cocktail Attire

Art Gallery NSW , Kaldor Hall (A short 15 min walk from the Swissotel)
Drinks / Canapes and guided tour starts at 6:30pm

PROGRAM

Day 2 - Friday 6 March 2026

Theme: Therapeutic & Refractive Corneal Surgery, Eye Banking, and Clinical Pearls



8:30 - 9:00am - Morning Tea and Coffee

9:00 - 10:00 | **Session 7: Hype, Hope, and Reality: AI in Corneal and Refractive Surgery**

Chairs: Dr Vannessa Leung and Dr Daya Sharma

9:00 - 9:30	Dr Alain Saad	Invited Talk: AI to the Rescue: Detection, Prediction, and Precision in Corneal Practice
9:30 - 9:45	A/Prof Elaine Chong	Robotic-Assisted Corneal Transplantation. Is this our future?
9:45 - 10:00	Prof Wei Chen	Portable Multispectral Imaging System with Multimodal AI for whole-disease-course Management of Ocular Surface Diseases

10:00 - 10:45 | **Session 8: Dry Eye Disease: Fast Facts and Fresh Data**

Chairs: Dr Capucine Oduard and Dr Nik Kumar

10:00-10:05	Dr Sofonias Fekadu	Clinical Profile and Severity of Meibomian Gland Dysfunction: Real-world Data from the Save Sight Dry Eye Registry
10:05 - 10:10	Dr Ngozi Chidi-Egboka	Real-world management for dry eye disease: Updates from Save Sight Dry Eye Registry
10:10 - 10:15	Dr Chris Lim	Identification of microplastics in commercial lubricant eyedrops and their inflammatory effects on human corneal epithelial cells
10:15 - 10:22		Q & A
10:22 - 10:27	Dr Luisa Colorado	Time-lapse IVCM reveals region-specific alterations in immune cell morphodynamics in moderate dry eye disease
10:27 - 10:32	Dr Farzaneh Mohammadi	Corneal cross-linking with hypotonic riboflavin for eyes with progressive keratoconus and thin corneas: a retrospective case series
10:32 - 10:37	Dr Catherine MH Ouyang	Characteristics of paediatric xerophthalmia in high-income nations: A systematic review
10:37 - 10:44		Q & A

10:45 - 11:15 - Morning Tea

11:15 - 11:45

The John Blandford Lecture - Frontiers in Science and Innovation

Chair: Dr John Males

Mr Adam Spencer - Prominent Australian mathematician, author, and media personality known for his work with the ABC, Triple J and 702 ABC Radio. He is University of Sydney's first-ever ambassador for mathematics and science.

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11:45 - 12:45 | Session 9: Eye Banking & EBAANZ - From Donor to Recipient: Advances in Eye Banking

Chairs: Dr Miriam Keane and Pierre Georges

11:45 - 12:00	Dr Miriam Keane	ACGR Report
12:00 - 12:10	Pierre Georges	EBAANZ update
12:10 - 12:20	Prof Damien Harkin	BIENCO update: progress made and potential implications for eye banking.
12:20 - 12:25	Dr Ada Liu	Wisdom in Corneal Blindness Assistance: The Development of China's largest Eye Bank Organisation and the Public Welcome Surgery Model of Corneal Transplantation
12:25 - 12:35	Sameer Mohammad Khan	Factors associated with Early Corneal Transplantation Regraft Rates: NSW Tissue Bank 2020-2024
12:35 - 12:45	Prof Chameen Samarawickrama	EK Disasters: Has the time come to move to prepared corneal tissue?
12:50 - 13:45	Dr Hong Zhang	Innovations in Eye Banking in China

12:50 - 13:45 - Lunch

13:45 - 14:30 | Session 10: Premium IOLs in Imperfect Eyes: Managing the Challenging Case

Chairs: Dr Season Yeung and Dr Ravi Singh

13:45 - 14:15	Dr Alain Saad	Invited Talk: Premium IOLs in the Presence of Capsular Rupture
14:15 - 14:30	Dr Cameron McLintock	Visual and Refractive Outcomes of a Small-Aperture IOL in Eyes with Irregular Astigmatism

14:30 - 15:00 | Session 11: When Transplant Isn't Enough: Advances in Keratoprosthesis

Chairs: Dr Tanya Trinh and A/Prof Con Petsoglou

14:30 - 14:40	Prof Wei Chen	Boston Type 2 KPro Surgery and Outcomes
14:40 - 14:50	Dr Jie Bai	Short-term Outcomes of the MIHE Keratoprosthesis surgery
14:50 - 15:00	Dr Simon Neary	Long-Term Outcomes of Boston Keratoprosthesis Surgery at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin, 2012-2025

15:00 - 15:30 - Afternoon Tea

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15:30 - 16:30 | Session 12: Corneal Potpourri: Rapid-Fire Insights Across the Spectrum

Chairs: Prof Minas Coroneo and Dr Saadia Goolam

15:30 - 15:35	Millie Rayner	Incidence of Microbial Keratitis following Corneal Transplantation for Corneal Endothelial Decompensation
15:35 - 15:40	Zhao Lin	Multimodal Management of Refractory Acanthamoeba Keratitis in a Contact Lens Wearer
15:40 - 15:45	Dr Nour Barakat	The Role of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in a Case of Recurrent Corneal Melt Secondary to Persistent Nocardia cyriacigeorgica Keratitis
15:45 - 15:50		Q & A
15:50 - 15:55	Dr Ruby Chan	Persistent DMEK Graft Detachment Managed by YAG Descemetotomy: Early Clinical Outcomes
15:55 - 16:00	Dr Chang Liu	Repair of a damaged cornea caused by failed keratorefractive lenticule extraction (KLEX) surgery using a post-KLEX donor cornea
16:00 - 16:05	Dr Cameron McLintock	A comparison of predicted spherical outcomes between two swept-source OCT-based optical biometers
16:05 - 16:10		Q & A
16:10 - 16:15	Dr Nour Barakat	Applications and Efficacy of Dehydrated Amniotic Membrane in the Management of Ocular Surface Disease
16:15 - 16:20	Dr Geraldine Lee	Topical Management of Primary Ocular Surface Squamous Neoplasia
16:20 - 16:25	Dr Shaowei Li	Safety and Efficacy of Topical Combination Chemotherapy for Ocular Surface Squamous Neoplasia
16:25 - 16:30		Q & A

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16:30 - 17:15 | Session 13: Surgical Mastery in Cornea: Video-Based Learning

Chairs: Dr Tanya Trinh and Dr Alain Saad

16:30 - 16:35	Dr Theo Sutedja	Open-Sky Cataract Extraction: Managing Surgical Challenges and Intraoperative Risk.
16:35 - 16:40	Dr Yee Ling Wong	Partial Thickness Corneal Laceration Flap Repair and Visual Outcomes
16:40 - 16:45	Dr Hucheng Duan	Clinical observation of corneal endothelial transplantation for treatment of corneal endothelial dysfunction
16:45 - 16:50		Q & A
16:50 - 16:55	Dr Yee Ling Wong	1stQ Add-On Lens with Scleral Fixation of One Haptic
17:00 - 17:05	Dr Shaowei Li	Salvaging a Ruptured Graft in Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) Surgery by Sequential Implantation and In-Situ Apposition: A Clever Technical Modification
17:05 - 17:10		Q & A

17:15 - 17:30 - Closing Remarks

Dr John Males and Dr Peter Beckingsale

Informal drinks at the Hotel bar (self funded)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS



Haile Alemu	Acanthamoeba keratitis from the patients' perspective: Qualitative study
Dereje Anbesse	Economic Cost Analysis of Acanthamoeba Keratitis Among Contact Lens Wearers
Ruby S Chan	Social Determinants of Keratoconus: A Systematic Review of Disparities in Disease and Care
Daniel Cool	The burden of keratoconus in the Pacific Islands
Alessandro Costa	Fifteen-year review of corneal scrape bacterial microbiology and antibiotic susceptibility from Canberra Health Service
Kiana Heath	Evaluation of Losartan action on corneal stromal cells in vitro
Dr Himel Kandal	Patients with worse symptoms in keratoconus: Insights from the Save Sight Keratoconus Registry
Dr Guigang Li	Limbal niche cell-derived exosomes accelerate corneal epithelial repair via PI3K/Akt/FOXO3 Signaling
Dr Shaowei Li	Analysis of Clinical Features and Risk Factors for Intraocular Lens Opacification after Endothelial Keratoplasty in pseudophakic eyes
Dr Shaowei Li	Clinical Efficacy of Short-term High Intraocular Pressure Air Tamponade for Descemet Membrane Detachment after Cataract Surgery
Clare Maher	Understanding Patient Satisfaction After Corneal Cross-Linking: A Review of Expectations, Outcomes and Experience
Javid Mohammadi	Economic burden and management of keratoconus
Dr Daya Sharma	Case Report of Presumed CMV Endotheliitis
Samir Uprety	Characterisation of Posterior Corneal Astigmatism Using the Anterior Biometer: Insights from a Large Cohort
Dr Jonathan Whyte	Outcomes of supplementary sulcus-fixated intraocular lenses to correct residual refractive error in pseudophakic post-keratoplasty eyes
Dr Man Xu	A Case of Recurrent Conjunctival Mass: From Misdiagnosis to Definitive Cure
Dr Qingyan Zeng	Natural Course in Fellow Eyes of Patients with Unilateral Keratoconus
Dr Meidong Zhu	Organ culture medium with human platelet lysate for the preservation of human donor cornea