

3RD OPHTHALMOLOGY-OPTOMETRY CONFERENCE (OOC 2018)

The Ophthalmology-Optometry Conference was first organized in the year 2014 and is a biennial programme by the Ministry of Health with collaboration between ophthalmologists and optometrists. The 3rd Ophthalmology-Optometry Conference was successfully held from August 10-12th this year at the Aman Jaya Convention Centre in the beautiful city of Ipoh. The meeting which was hosted by Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun in collaboration with Hospital Sungai Buloh was attended by nearly 600 delegates from throughout the country.

This 3-day programme started off with a preconference and a 'hands-on' Cornea processing workshop followed by 2 educational days of scientific talks covering several topics of interest. These topics are catered to not only Ophthalmologists but also took into account the special interest in the field of work pertaining to our colleagues, the Optometrists as well as the Paramedics. The collaboration of ophthalmologists and optometrists in our field is unique and is essential in providing eye health care services.

The theme for the meeting this year was "Safe Guarding the Frontier and Shaping the Imperfections" and focused on cornea and contact lens disorders. To ensure its success, the scientific committee led by Dr Shamala Retnasabapathy gathered leading corneal surgeons and optometrists both internationally and locally to share their knowledge on current practices and innovations. This included keynote speakers such as Associate Professor Dr Mark Daniell, Head of Cornea, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and President of RANZCO and Professor Helen Swarbrick, Research Optometrist, University of New South Wales, Australia.

For the first time the meeting was also opened up to Paramedics with many submitting interesting posters and free paper presentations. The pre-conference program included workshops on cornea processing, contact lens fitting and corneal topography. This was followed by two days of scientific conference that provided a platform for discussion of present and future challenges and rare cases.

Dato' Dr. Hj. Azman bin Abu Bakar, the current Deputy DG of Health, Dr. Zuraidah Mustari and Puan Hjh. Che Ruhani Binti Che Ja'afar were all honoured with Awards at the conference this year. Apart from the informative talks, there was time to make new acquaintances, renew old ones and enjoy Ipoh food!

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