



PRESS RELEASE

Keynote Speakers announced for ACO National Conference 2014

The Australian College of Optometry today announced its keynote speakers for this year's National Conference in October.

The conference will feature a series of highly educational and engaging presentations by some of region's leading experts in optometry.

The full conference program is now available at www.aco.org.au, and the following keynote speakers will be featured at the conference.

Associate Professor Jamie Craig

Assoc Prof Craig has established the Australian and New Zealand Registry of Advanced Glaucoma (ANZRAG) – a repository of over 1300 cases of glaucoma-induced blindness and 1100 secondary glaucoma cases. His laboratory conducts genome-wide association studies and gene discovery projects in monogenic traits and he has identified at least two genes which are associated with open angle glaucoma and that can cause blindness.

His keynote presentations will analyse demographic variations of glaucoma and the public health challenge of glaucoma in Australia and abroad. Assoc Prof Craig will look at genetic screening methods for identifying patients who are at risk of developing glaucoma, surgical procedures and their selection criteria and surgical complications.

Professor Robyn Guymer

Prof Guymer is the head of the Macular Research Unit at the Centre for Eye Research (CERA) and is the lead investigator on the Bionic Eye Project. She will present the session "Laser Intervention in Early Age-related Macular Degeneration" covering the use of laser to halt and potentially reverse age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) and identifying patients who may benefit.

Dr Peter Hadden

Dr Hadden is the tertiary referral specialist for all adult intraocular tumours in New Zealand (NZ). He will present the session "Anterior Eye Neoplasia: Differentiating between the benign and the malignant." This topic will cover the use of optical coherence tomography (OCT) in diagnosing anterior segment neoplasia and explain which anterior segment tumours pose the most serious threats to vision and lives of patients and their treatment.

The ACO National conference will be held on the 18 & 19 October 2014 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne. For more information and to register see the ACO website www.aco.org.au or phone +61 3 9349 7477.

For more information please contact Jolanda de Jong, Professional Development Manager (p) +61 3 9349 7530 (e) jdejong@aco.org.au or (w) www.aco.org.au