

RED SEA OPHTHALMOLOGY SYMPOSIUM - A COMPREHENSIVE EVENT FOR ALL



OPENING REMARKS BY CHIEF GUEST DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF JEDDAH CITY

Saudi Arabia hosts the Red Sea Ophthalmology Symposium (RSOS) annually, one of the largest such events in that region. The latest updates in the fields of ophthalmology and optometry are presented through presentations, workshops, interactive sessions, discussions, courses, wet-Labs, e-posters, live surgery and semi-live surgery, and an exhibition where exhibitors showcased their latest products in the ophthalmic and optical technology field.

More than 2480 delegates – ophthalmologists, optometrists, ophthalmic assistants and nurses – gathered at Jeddah’s Ritz Carlton Al

Hamra from 20 to 24 November 2019 for the fifth edition of the symposium. Prince Abdulaziz Bin Ahmed Al Saud welcomed the delegates to the event that was organised by the Saudi Ophthalmological Society (SOS) in collaboration with the regional hospitals and universities. The chief guest of the event was the Deputy Governor of the Jeddah city Prince Saudi Bin Jalawi Al Saud.

The participants were from different regions of the world including from the Philippines, Egypt, the UK, USA, India, the UAE, Spain, Italy, Kuwait, Canada, Oman, Indonesia and Turkey.

Eminent Saudi and international

DURING SAUDI ARABIA NATIONAL ANTHEM



ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBER MOHAMMED FASHIHUDDIN WITH YOGITA RAJGANDHI

experts, including from the US, the UK, Egypt, Turkey and India, shared their clinical and research experience that covered cornea diseases, retina, cataract and refractive surgeries, contact lens, dry eye, paediatric refractive errors, keratoconus, dispensing optics, myopia control, and visual neuroscience. The programme included ophthalmic



courses for anaesthesiologists and general physicians, courses for optometrists, and satellite symposia sessions. In total, there were, 200 local speakers, 54 international speakers, 40 chair sessions moderator, 145 organiser team members and 100 committee members. 80 E-posters were also displayed on the occasion. Furthermore, there were 32 oral presentations, 12 E posters, two courses and seven workshops organised during the three days in the optometry section. There was also an exhibition where 200 exhibitors presented their products.

The speakers included Dr Don Lyon from Indiana University (USA) who discussed clinical examination and treatment of strabismus. He also conducted a workshop on vision therapy and presented oral papers on clinical examination procedures and the inclusion of MRI and CT scans in optometry.

Senior optometrist Yogita L Rajgandhi's (the only one to be invited from India) presentation on low vision too was very well received. Her second talk was on public health which led to a lively discussion and exchange of ideas. Optometrists from some other countries were keen on picking up the finer points so that they could conduct such eye care projects in their respective countries.

Ms Rajgandhi also had the opportunity to interact with a young



YOGITA INTERACTING WITH A VISUALLY IMPAIRED LADY AT EBSAR FOUNDATION

visually impaired lady from the Ebsar Foundation who spoke about Braille education in Saudi Arabia.

The RSOS 2019 headed by Ali Mohamed Al-Khairi, its president, and the Scientific Program Committee had put together a state-of-the-art programme that ensured the event was a great success with memorable educational sessions. In addition, it was an enriching social experience for all the participants who also got to enjoy an evening gala and a fine spread of Arabian delicacies.

A highlight of the programme was the distribution of awards to

the best posters presented at the symposium. There were three poster winners – Dr Salman Alghunaim, Manal Al Wazae and Amani Y Alhalwani won the first, second and third prize respectively. Likewise, the winners of the photo contest were Omar Alrozi, Feras Madne and Dania Hamad Alkharboush while the video contest winners were Dr Saad Alharbi, Dr Mosa Alharbi and Dr Wael Suleman in the first to third prize category, respectively.

Ophthalmologists, optometrists and related professionals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have greatly benefited ever since the Saudi Ophthalmological Society was set up. Under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Honorary President of the SOS Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Society continues to strive to achieve its future goals and make the already strong and very comprehensive symposium even stronger to benefit the entire geographical region and the professions as a whole.



OPTOM YOGITA WITH AN OPTOMETRIST FROM SAUDI ARABIA



OPTOM YOGITA WITH OPTOMETRISTS FROM PHILIPPINES AND EGYPT