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The XXXVIII Meeting of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE in conjunction with the World Ophthalmology Congress 2012.

The WOC Congress was held at the ADNEC Abu Dhabi Convention Center from 16-20 February, 2012. Members and their guests had ample opportunity to participate in Congress activities as well as enjoy the sights and attractions of Abu Dhabi. The WOC was the largest convention in Abu Dhabi to date. The WOC meeting was beautifully organized under the leadership of its President Abdulaziz Ibrahim AlRajhi.

Social events included the President’s Reception on Wednesday, February 15, the spectacular opening ceremony which reflected the theme, significance, and heritage of the MEACO Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Cultural Night at the Emirates Palace on February 17, 2012.

We are grateful to MEACO for their hospitality during our visit to Abu Dhabi.
Business meeting (Friday, February 17, 2012)
During the business meeting four new members were given medals, pins, and documents.

President Paul Lichter and Prof. Daniel E. Etya´alé (chair XV)

President Paul Lichter and Prof. Paul P. Lee (chair II)
President Paul Lichter and Prof. Anselm Kampik (chair IX)

President Paul Lichter and Prof. Ioannis Pallikaris (Chair XVII)
Academia Elects New Members

Outstanding candidates were nominated for membership in the AOI and six new members were elected.

Prof. Tero T. Kivelä (chair XVIII)
Prof. Xiaoxin Li (chair XXXIX)
Prof. Boris E. Malyugin (chair XLII)
Prof. Robert Ritch (chair LI)
Prof. Birgit Lorenz (chair LIV)
Prof. Pinar Aydin O’Dwyer (chair LVI)

49 Academicians attended the business meeting
Special scientific session

The special scientific session was opened after the business meeting. First the following obituary was delivered by Prof. SJ Ryan.

Carl Kupfer, M.D. Obituary

Carl Kupfer, the founding director of the National Eye Institute at NIH passed away on April 7, 2011. As the first director of the National Eye Institute (NEI), he saw the NEI budget grow from $24 million in 1970 to more than $450 million in 2000 when he stepped down as director.
Dr. Kupfer championed controlled clinical trials in a number of major eye diseases including diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma and retinopathy of prematurity among many other diseases.

Dr. Kupfer was a member of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis and was very active in international ophthalmology including serving as president of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness from 1982-1990.

Dr. Kupfer was born in Brooklyn in 1928 and he received his undergraduate degree from Yale and then his medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore in 1952 where he completed his residency at the Wilmer Institute. He was a research fellow in ophthalmology at both Wilmer and Harvard Medical School where became an assistant professor and then went to the University of Washington in Seattle in 1966 as the chairman of the department and came to the NEI as director in 1970.
Inaugural Lectures were then delivered by the four newly inducted Members;

The first Inaugural Lecture was presented by Prof. Daniel Etyà alé: „The challenges of delivering comprehensive eye care services in SSA in the 21st century!"

Prof. Paul Lee delivered the second lecture entitled: „Assessing the content of eye care: varying perspectives for the future“
To remember

The third lecture was presented by Prof. Anselm Kampik: The vitreoretinal interface - from pathology to clinical implications"
Finally Prof. **Joannis Pallikaris** presented: „Accommodative IOLs, how do they accommodate?“

**Member presentations** followed during the Special Scientific Session beginning with Prof. **Pran Nagpal**: “Changing over to new techniques and new technology--Creating awareness of misleading evidences”
(https://www.a-o-int.org/fileadmin/Mediathek/Member_Presentations/EVALUATING_THE_NEW.pdf)

Prof. **Gerd Lang** followed with: „Anterior segment OCT in diagnosis and
Prof. Marie-José Tassignon spoke on: „New insights on paediatric cataract surgery“. 

And Prof. Petja Vassileva presented: „Challenges of herpetic eye disease“
Academia Oration

Prof. Paul Lichter introduced the Orator Prof. Jean-Jacques DeLaey, Belgium, who presented his lecture: "Retinal imaging, from Helmholtz's ophthalmoscope to adaptive optics". (http://www.a-o-int.org/fileadmin/Mediathek/Member_Presentations/Retinal_Imaging_J-J_DeLaey_web.pdf)

Prof. Paul Lichter during introduction of the Orator
A Belgian Legacy

- Born and early schooling in Bruges

Our wonderful friend and fellow Academician Professor Jean-Jacques De Laey
At the conclusion of our Special Scientific Session on Sunday, March 20th, the annual Academia Luncheon was held in honour of our AOI Orator, Prof. Dr. Jean-Jacques DeLaey of Bruges, Belgium.
AOI Symposia
The following symposia were held during 2012

AOI symposium at WOC2012 Abu Dhabi (Sunday, March 19, 2012): “Diagnosis and management of Retinopathy in Progressive Myopia”
Chairs: Jorge L Alio and Peter Wiedemann
Jorge Alio “The mystery of high myopia”
Tien Wong “Prevalence and importance of myopic degeneration as a major cause of legal blindness in the myope”
Francesco Bandello “The myopic retina: what makes it spoil?”
Tatsurom Ishibashi “Types and classification of retinal degeneration in high myopia”
George P Theodossiadis “Retinal detachment in the high myope: anatomical and visual outcomes of retinal repair”
Maria Jose Tassignon “Lens surgery in the high myope: how to balance the retinal risk with the benefit”
Paul Lichter “Introduction: AOI lecture”
Gisele Soubrane “Mechanisms of Central Vision Loss in Myopic Eyes”
AOI symposium at WOC 2012 Abu Dhabi (Monday, March 20, 2012):
"Milestones in Ophthalmology"

Chair: JEAN-JACQUES DE LAEY
HUGH TAYLOR: "Trachoma"
FRANK BILLSON: "ROP"
JORGE ALIO: "IOL and Ridley"
BILL TASMAN: "Charles Schepens: from Mouscron to Boston"
JOHN MARSHALL: "Excimer Laser"
J.J. DE LAEY: "Vesalius. 500 years of ocular anatomy"

AOI Symposia at APAO 2012 Busan, Corea:
"UPDATE ON CORNEAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT"
Chairs: TETSURO OSHIKA and RICHARD ABBOTT

RICHARD ABBOTT  “Clinical pearls in the management of corneal trauma"
CHARLES McGHEE  "What have we learned from imaging the keratoconic cornea by in vivo confocal microscopy"

TETSURO OSHIKA  "Optical quality of ocular surface and visual function"
CHOUN-KI JOO  "Clinical results and complications of Intacs segment implantation"
LIXIN XIE  "Corneal infection"
RAJESH FOGLA  "Modified technique of big bubble deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK) and results"
SHIGETO SHIMMURA  "Endothelial keratoplasty in Asian eyes"

"Posterior segment complications of anterior segment surgery"
Chair: ABHAY R. VASAVADA

ABHAY VASAVADA  “Posterior capsule rupture and its management”
MANISH NAGPAL  “Update on management of nucleus/lens matter drop”
PAUL LICHTER  “Implications and management of postoperative choroidal detachments”
RON YEOH  “Preventing retinal problems during phaco”
MARIE-JOSE TASSIGNON  “Retinal detachment after cataract surgery”
SUJAKON TAHIJA  “Macula and cataract surgery (ARMD and / or diabetic maculopathy)”

The following symposia will be held in 2013:

**Management of difficult glaucomas**
Robert Ritch, Hugh Taylor, Paul Lichter

Rubens Belfort, Brazil  Glaucoma and uveitis
Dennis Lam, China  Iridocorneal endothelial syndrome
Harminder Dua, Great Britain  Managing glaucoma in eyes with opaque corneas
Tero Kivela, Finland  Management of glaucoma in eyes with melanoma
Zbiginiew Zagorski, Poland  Epithelial ingrowth
Birgit Lorenz, Germany  Genetics of primary and secondary congenital glaucoma. Prognostic and therapeutic consequences.
Medical Ethics in Ophthalmology. Debate & Didactic and Discussion
(Co-Sponsored by AOI, ICO & SC. Committee AIOS)

Chair - Dr Pinar Aydin, Turkey      Moderator - Dr Kadircan Keskinbora, Turkey
Convener - Dr P N Nagpal, India

Ethics of implanting multifocal IOL’s
For Implanting – Dr D Ramamurthy
Against Implanting – Dr Marie-Jose Tassignon
Rebuttal – Dr D Ramamurthy – India

Ethics of Physician – Industry Interaction – Dr Paul Lichter – USA

Medical Ethics – Limitations & Compromises in Enforcement – Dr P N Nagpal – India

Ethics – Caught or Taught – Should it be a part of the curriculum – Dr Bruce E. Spivey – USA

Encouraging Group Practices – Different Types -Introduction - Dr A R Vasavada – India

Ethics and Ocular Research Activity – What to care - Dr Pinar Aydin – Turkey

Panel Discussion – 25 mts

Symposium of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis
At SOE 2013, 8-10 June, Copenhagen, Denmark

Alternative options for corneal transplantation
Chairman: M.J. Tassignon, M.J. Jager, R. Abbott

R. Abbott, San Francisco, USA        The worldwide need for corneal transplants.
M.J. Tassignon, Antwerp, Belgium     SOCT epithelial stem cell transplantation.
G. Vemuganti, Hyderabad, India      Experience with cultured donor cells.
M.J. Jager, Leiden, the Netherlands Fish-scale derived corneal tissue.
M. Griffith, Linkoping, Sweden      Collagen-derived artificial corneas.
K.A. Colby, Boston, USA            Boston keratoprosthesis in children.