

NeNOS/UKNOSIG 2019 Conference Report



The Dutch Neuro-Ophthalmological Society (NeNOS) & UKNOSIG were delighted to welcome attendees from the Netherlands, UK & all over Europe to this oversubscribed joint conference (programme [here](#)) at the Eye Filmmuseum Amsterdam March 1st & 2nd 2019.

We were limited by venue capacity and hope that those who could not be accommodated find this report useful. We hope to see you all at [our next event in Cambridge 26-27 September 2019](#)



CONFERENCE REPORT

Attendees were welcomed on the first day by Dr Jan Willem Pott (University of Groningen) reminiscing about his first visit to Amsterdam as a child and promised the general ophthalmologists that Neuro-ophthalmologists were not nearly so intimidating as the Dutch military police (!) and the UK attendees that they would always find welcome and friendship from colleagues here in the Netherlands.



A series of excellent talks kept attendees on their toes, and hands in the air at question time

DAY 1

Alongside the academic programme throughout Day 1 Dr Axel Petzold (Moorfields, Queen Square & UMC Amsterdam) ran parallel sessions on OCT imaging & analysis, as well as accessible ophthalmoscopy using the [Arclight solar-powered pocket ophthalmoscope](#).

Higher cognitive visual function

Dr Plant described lesional syndromes from V1 to V5 via 150 years of research in this area; Maria Maia de Silva (UCL Institute of Neurology) highlighted static field homonymous hemianopia in Posterior Cortical

Atrophy; Michael Crossland (Moorfields) described his progress towards a Pulfrich-ometer; Prejaas Tewarie (University of Nottingham) computationally modelled structural and functional brain networks, in recovery from optic neuritis; and Steven Scholte (UMC Amsterdam) described his attempts to understand and model visual pathways using machine learning.

Optic Neuropathies

Judith van Everdingen (Rotterdam Eye Hospital) outlined LHON and current (Idebanone is licensed and funded in the Netherlands) & developing (Rhodos, Reverse, Reflect & Rescue RCTs - nil positive outcomes to date) treatments; Mies van Genderen (UMC Utrecht) took us on a whistlestop tour through a range of inherited optic neuropathies raising the key clinical point that in mitochondrial optic neuropathy atrophy STARTS in the GCL so you will see atrophy there at onset; Emanuel de Carvalho described three types of inherited retinal dystrophies with pathognomonic electrographic findings (clue: they are Enhanced S-cone syndrome, KCNV2 retinopathy & Bradyopsia RGS9 & R9AP retinopathy); Ailbhe Burke (Moorfields) highlighted the evidently UK-specific problem of an excess of pseudopapilloedema referrals and a discussion ensued around clinical approaches to this (hint: nothing replaces clinician review); Jan Willem Pott described the frequent co-occurrence and pathophysiology of alcohol & B12 deficiency optic neuropathy (hint: normal B12 levels don't rule this out, need methylmalonic acid and homocysteine).

Vascular Neuro-Ophthalmology

Emanuel de Carvalho returned to talk us through OCTA in ischaemic and genetic optic neuropathies; Willemien de Vries-Knoppert (UMC Amsterdam) talked through the controversies in what has been described as Paracentral Acute Middle Maculopathy and described two distinct phenotypes; Dr Plant returned to tell us never more to use the term 'amaurosis fugax' and rather to call it transient monocular visual loss (TMVL) and outlined both embolic and vasospastic presentations; Rene van Rijn (VUMC Amsterdam) outlined operative options for persistent stable diplopias; finally Carlijn Borm described the protean visual impairments associated with Parkinson's Disease, from dry eyes, to retinal changes reducing colour and contrast sensitivity, to visual processing disorders and hallucinations.



With thanks to the organiser and sponsors for a world-class programme, unforgettable venue, excellent refreshments and all running smoothly & to time throughout

Dr. Axel Petzold (pictured), Dr. Gordon Plant, Drs. Willemien de Vries-Knoppert, Dr Noel Bauer, Dr. Jan Willem Pott, European Reference Network, Santhera, Heidelberg Engineering and Gensight Biologics



Pan-European Fellows enjoying the conference dinner at Grand Cafe 1884

CONFERENCE DINNER AT GRAND CAFE 1884

Spoiled with rather more courses than advertised and free-flowing wine, discussions continued into the evening at the conference dinner. UK attendees were rather outdone by our European colleagues in the number of languages spoken well, but attempted to make up for it with stories told well.

DAY 2

The Glymphatic system

Dr Petzold opened day 2 on the Glymphatic system followed by Lisanne Balk (VUMC) taking us through the fascinating oddities that are PHOMS and Danko Coric (Moorfields) took us through the assessment and usefulness of vitreous haze.

Autoimmune-mediated Optic Neuropathies

Dr Petzold told us about his update with Dr Plant of their original work from almost a decade ago on ON, RION & CRION, while Rogier Hintzen (Erasmus University Rotterdam) & Bob van Oosten VUMC described NMO spectrum (Aq4, MOG) optic neuritis

Patients' Perspectives

Nils Wiegerinck introduced a welcome and much needed focus on patient expectations; Russell Wheeler (patient advocate UK LHON society) took attendees through the patient role in European Reference Network for Eye diseases (ERN-EYE) with particular reference to LHON

Novel assessments and therapies in Autoimmune Neuro-Ophthalmology

Dr. Sui Wong (Moorfields, St Thomas') described progress on the new ocular myasthenia rating scale, the OMGRATS; Jenny Nij Bijvank (VUMC) discussed infrared video-oculography & INO in MS; Kawita Kanhai (Centre for Human Drug Research, Leiden) expounded on the role of Fampridine (previously licensed to aid walking in MS) for INO in MS; Dr Jonathan Virgo (Moorfields) presented preliminary results suggesting that, in his sample from Moorfields high dose oral steroids don't improve outcomes across all types of optic neuritis; Andrew Blaikie rounded off the academic session with a demonstration of the possibilities of Arclight, a solar powered pocket ophthalmoscope, for bringing funduscopy to the masses even in resource-poor areas.

Case Presentations

Attendees were invited to engage with and discuss a series of case presentations, including a fascinating description of DADA2 mutation causing a Polyarteritis Nodosa-like presentation with related eye pathology, to round off a successful conference, and those who stayed until the finish were offered quite the musical reward, as one of our senior colleagues shared their prowess to bring the meeting to a close.