



European Academy
of Optometry and Optics

PRESS RELEASE

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PRIZES AWARDED AT ACADEMY CONFERENCE

Over 220 delegates from over 20 countries met at the European Academy's third conference in Prague from 6 - 8 May 2011. The event incorporated the European Optometric Education Congress (TUPO) formerly held in Brno and focused around the themes of education, research and clinical practice.

Professor Roger Crelier, the newly appointed President of the Academy said:

"It is inspiring to see so many delegates here from so many different backgrounds - and particularly so many students, the future of our profession. We are here with a common goal - to further advance eye care across Europe. This weekend's conference has provided us with valuable learning and networking opportunities and I hope delegates will leave the event enthused and motivated by the Academy's work."

Reflecting the diversity of this year's audience, the Academy's prizes were awarded to optometrists from Germany and Saudi Arabia.

The UK's College of Optometrists sponsor the prizes which are designed to recognise and reward achievement. The prize for best poster presentation was judged by the Academy's Abstract and Programme Panel and was awarded to **Dr Ali Masmali** of the College of Applied Medical Sciences, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for his poster *Tear ferning test: A new grading scale*.

Professor Peter Moest from Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin, Germany, was presented with the prize for best oral presentation for his lecture *The dominant eye*. This award was judged by the delegates.

Dr Paul Murphy, newly elected Vice- President and member of the Academy's abstract panel said:

"The Oral and Poster Presentation prizes are an important way of recognising excellence in European eye health care. We are delighted to be able to honour our fellow professionals in this way and hope that the prizes will inspire others to share their work with us in future."

European Academy 2011 Prague offered a broader programme of learning and networking opportunities this year - a result of a large increase in the number of abstracts received for the event and demand for more sessions from its members:

- Two keynote lectures were presented from Professor John Lawrenson (City University, UK) on *Education and Clinical competence* and Dr Thomas van den Berg (University of

Amsterdam and Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, The Netherlands) on *Ocular Straylight*.

- Members' roundtable sessions included *how to run an eye clinic in a university environment planning your first research project: where to start* and *'what do we really do? The role of the optometrist in the USA*.
- Case study sessions on education and clinical practice were introduced at the event, continuing the principles of the European Educators Congress for delegates to share information, learn from each other and explore and share best practice. Sessions focussed on a broad variety of topics including contact lens options for patients with acnea rosacea, to the diagnosis and management of multiple visual findings in a teenage male suffering from traumatic brain injury and were well attended by delegates.
- Delegates also benefited from a range of other lectures, poster presentations where they had the chance to engage directly with researchers, and practical workshops which were held at The Vision Care Institute of Johnson and Johnson in Prague.

Other highlights of the Academy's conference included the award of its first Fellows; the election of the new Vice-President (Dr Paul Murphy, UK) and two Trustees (Professor Holger Dietze, Germany and Dr Ellen Svarerud, Norway) and the appointment of Professor Roger Crelier as President. Professor Crelier takes over from Dr Feike Grit, who now becomes the Academy's first Immediate Past President.

Dates for the Academy's next annual conference will be announced later this year.

-Ends-

For further information regarding the conference, the prize winners, the Academy Fellows or to request photography from this meeting, please contact Ellen Colquhoun, Head of Marketing and Communications at the College of Optometrists on
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Notes for Editors:

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- 2 The secretariat for the European Academy is provided by the College of Optometrists, London, United Kingdom.