

Biographies of Speakers involved in the day, Birdshot Uveitis Society and key members of the Birdshot Day Steering group.

Rea Mattocks was diagnosed Birdshot Chorioretinopathy in January 2006. She experienced difficulties in obtaining medication that controlled the disease. Later, she was forced to leave work due to the side effects of the medicine she eventually received. Rea aims to improve services in the UK for people with uveitis, promote the work of the UIG, support patients through their experience and provide appropriate information for patients on posterior uveitis. Rea is a qualified social worker, who worked in health and social care until her condition brought her here. Her most recent post was as Director of Adult Social Services for a large county council. This background has proved extremely useful in understanding the internal workings of the NHS and public sector in general.

Annie Folkard was diagnosed with Birdshot Chorioretinopathy in 2004. Unusually she was diagnosed on her first appointment, but received no treatment for two years. During this time her eye sight slowly deteriorated and tests revealed that her rods and cones were slowly dying. Eventually she found a consultant who provided her with aggressive treatment. Tests have shown that one eye is improved whilst the other hasn't deteriorated further. Because of her experience she is passionate that all sufferers should receive the appropriate treatment to deal with their different conditions. A correct early diagnosis can be vital to save sight.

Narciss Okhravi is a Consultant Ophthalmologist specialising in Uveitis and Medical Retina at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, and holds the title of Honorary Senior Lecturer at Department of Ocular Biology and Therapeutics (ORBIT), UCL Institute of Ophthalmology. She is the lead ophthalmologist and grant holder for a UCL Beacon Bursary grant and NIHR-BMRC funding which has made the Birdshot Patient day possible. She has a keen interest in developing a research network for Birdshot Chorioretinopathy. Her other current research interests include intravitreal treatments for patients with macular oedema especially that caused by diabetes and uveitis. Narciss Okhravi also holds the title of Director of Undergraduate Education, Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. She is a fully accredited RCP Medical Educator and completed her Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education in 2010.

Miles Stanford is currently Chair of Clinical Ophthalmology, King's College, London and holds posts mainly at St Thomas' Hospital. He trained at St Thomas' and King's College Hospitals as well as undertaking original research into the mechanisms underlying uveitis for his post doctoral thesis. He currently runs 4 clinics for patients with uveitis (including patients with birdshot) every week. His main current research interests are in intraocular inflammation particularly the immunogenetics of Behcet's disease and the epidemiology of toxoplasmosis. He is undertaking a number of

commercial and non-commercial trials evaluating the effects of new drugs in the treatment of uveitis including in patients with birdshot. He has published over 160 peer reviewed articles and contributed to more than 30 book chapters as well as currently nurturing 6 doctoral students. He is founder and chairman of the British Ophthalmological Surveillance Unit, a unique unit that studies the epidemiology of rare ophthalmic diseases in the UK and has contributed significantly in the past to the training of ophthalmologists. He is a Trustee and council member of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Mark Westcott qualified in 1989. As an undergraduate he won the prestigious national prize in Ophthalmology, the Duke Elder Award. His resident training was at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (with specialist training in viral retinitis). During this time he pursued research leading to a MD thesis in visual function in glaucoma.

Carlos E Pavesio has been working as a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital, since 1995 and currently is the Medical Retina Service Director. He completed his medical degree and Residency in Ophthalmology at Escola Paulista de Medicina in Brazil. This was followed by a fellowship in Ocular Inflammation at the Proctor Foundation in San Francisco and fellowships in External Diseases and Uveitis at Moorfields Eye Hospital. He has organised more than 10 Uveitis Courses and Symposia in the UK and abroad and is Session Editor for the British Journal of Ophthalmology (BJO) and reviewer for BJO, 'EYE', Ocular Immunology and Inflammation, European Journal, Graefes Archives, International Ophthalmology amongst others. He is also member of IUSG, IOIS and British Uveitis Group and Vice-president of the SOIE.

Phuc LeHoang is Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology of Hôpital Pitié-salpêtrière at Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris, France. He has published over 210 papers in peer reviewed literature as well as 9 book chapters. He has been lecturer all over the world and an investigator on numerous projects dealing with research medical and surgical management in the field of ocular inflammation. He has participated in the organisation of several international meetings and is currently the President of the International Ocular Inflammation Society. He has been nominated knight in the highest order of the French Republic (Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur).

Christine Fardeau graduated in 1983 from Pitié-salpêtrière University, Paris. She obtained her Doctorate of Medicine in 1989 specialising in Ophthalmology in 1991. Since then she has been working as a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon at Hôpital Pitié-salpêtrière, becoming a Chief Consultant in 1994. The department is led by Professor Phuc LeHoang and Christine has specialised in Uveitis and Retinal surgery. She has extensive Clinical Trial experience in the field of Uveitis pathology, medical

and surgical management. Currently she is involved in Interferon-alpha2a trials which have included patients with Birdshot. She has published numerous international papers and book chapters relating to uveitis research.

Melissa Hillier is Assistant Director of Genetic Alliance UK. She supports the Director and Trustee Board in the development, implementation and delivery of the Genetic Alliance UK policy and communication strategies. She manages various Genetic Alliance UK projects including the Facilitating Networks Project, Insurance Project, Patient Partner Project and Patient Engagement Project and she also works as part of Genetic Alliance UK's Policy and Public Affairs team along with our Policy Analyst and Public Affairs Assistant. She has overall responsibility for communication activities at Genetic Alliance UK.

Mike Brace CBE was blinded by a firework hidden in a bottle aged 10 years old.

After leaving school and training, Mike worked as a social worker in various London boroughs for many years. In 2010 Mike took up a new position of Development Director for the newly formed "VISION 2020 UK", He now heads it, as their Chief Executive.

He has also always had a great love of sport undertaking over 50 different sports ranging from surfing and sailing, to skiing and cricket. Mike was National Champion at race walking for many years and still holds many of the records for a totally blind walker.

Mike first represented Britain at cross-country skiing in the first Winter Paralympics in 1976 and then represented his country in 3 World Championships, 6 Paralympics and 2 European Championships. His sporting achievements are too numerous to mention.

He was awarded the OBE for Services to Disabled Sport in the 2005 New Year's Honours List, and the CBE in the Queens Birthday Honours list 2009 again for his contribution to Disabled Sport.

Phil Hibbert was diagnosed with a rare form of posterior uveitis, retinal vasculitis in 1996. After experiencing deteriorating eye sight he lost one of his eyes due to rare complication. Through aggressive treatment at a leading Uveitis centre, the condition was largely controlled in his remaining eye, although he lost some central vision. He is passionate about being able to lead a normal life. In April 1998 he set up the UIG, working alongside prominent ophthalmologists to provide support and help to both consultants and patients. He has continued to devote himself to patient support and to raising the profile of uveitis and is now well known nationally and internationally as a patient expert on uveitis. As a patient his knowledge and interest is in all forms of uveitis and he provides support for patients who need help with these conditions. In his spare time he coaches fencing, cycles and enjoys gardening.

Claudia Wilson-Barrett trained in Jamaica and qualified as a Registered General Nurse in 1996. After consolidating her experience on medical and surgical wards and operating theatre she came to London. She worked at Mayday Hospital for the last 5 years in the Ophthalmic department where she has developed a specialist interest in Ophthalmology. She completed the Ophthalmic nursing course in 2007. She is currently completing her BSc in Health Science. Claudia came to Moorfields Eye Hospital in June 2009 where she is the Uveitis Link nurse.

Nik Koutroumanos graduated from Newcastle University Medical School in 2006 and continued his post-graduate training in the region until 2010, undertaking formal training in Ophthalmology and completing a year as a full-time clinical teacher. He is now an Ophthalmic Surgical trainee with the London Deanery and takes a special interest in Medical Education.