

2026 Interprofessional Eye Forum



At least 25% of this program is dedicated to participant interaction.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by Continuing Professional Development, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. You may claim a maximum of **5.0** hours (credits are automatically calculated).

Program

Overall Learning Objectives:

By the end of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Accurately identify key red flags and systemic associations of common and urgent pediatric ocular conditions
2. Establish and implement clear, evidence-based co-management protocols
3. Demonstrate effective interprofessional communication by accurately describing diagnostic priorities, protocols, and terminology used

Moderators:

1. Dr. Sapna Sharan
2. Dr. Yiannis Iordanous

Event Timeline

8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 8:35	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:35 – 9:20	Dr. Mishari Dahrab – <i>In-N-Out: A Drive-Thru Strabismus Experience</i> Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• After this talk, the audience will be able to identify the most common types of childhood strabismus. Key points that aid in the clinical assessment and management of these conditions will be reviewed, as well as surgical options and timing.
9:20 – 9:40	Dr. Inas Makar– <i>Pediatric Ophthalmology Referrals: When and Why to Refer?</i> Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• After this talk, the audience will be able to identify the critical periods for development of vision and binocular vision in children.• Conditions that require timely referral to avoid compromising visual development will be highlighted, as well as those that can be managed in the community by optometrist colleagues.
9:40 – 9:50	Panel Discussion / Q&A
9:50 – 10:20	BREAK
10:20 – 10:40	Dr. Sapna Sharan – <i>Does This Child Have Glaucoma?</i> Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify different presentations of childhood glaucoma and glaucoma masqueraders.• Discuss pertinent cases reinforcing these points.

10:40 – 11:00	<p>Dr. Marissa Lagman-Bartolome – <i>Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension (IIH) in Kids & Teens</i> Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an approach in the evaluation, diagnosis and investigations of IIH in kids and teens. • Describe the epidemiology and clinical features of pediatric IIH. • Discuss the updates in comprehensive management of IIH in the young.
11:00 – 11:20	<p>Dr. Lulu Bursztyn – <i>Pseudotumour Cerebri, Pseudopapilledema, and Other Pseudonyms</i> Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the epidemiology and pathophysiology of pediatric IIH, highlighting key differences from adult IIH. • Apply appropriate diagnostic criteria for pediatric IIH, including age-specific considerations for neuroimaging and lumbar puncture. • Differentiate true papilledema from pseudopapilledema in children using clinical examination and ancillary testing.
11:20 – 11:35	Panel Discussion / Q&A
11:35 – 12:35	Lunch
12:35 – 12:40	Welcome – Afternoon Panels
12:40 – 1:00	<p>Dr. Mishari Dahrab – <i>Approach to pediatric eye examination; Strategies from the Art of War.</i> Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate key strategies to facilitate a successful pediatric examination and analyze common pediatric pathologies and their clinical features.
1:00 – 1:20	<p>Dr. Rod Lim – <i>Pediatric EyeCare: A View from the Trenches</i>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight common child and parental concerns regarding ophthalmological complaints to an emergency department. • Present data on types and frequency of complaints. • Highlight certain conditions which cause high stress, to both the family and the physician.
1:20 – 1:40	<p>Dr. Yiannis Iordanous – <i>Pediatric Proptosis</i> Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a systematic approach to evaluating pediatric proptosis, incorporating key historical elements and examination findings. • Differentiate urgent from non-urgent causes of pediatric proptosis based on clinical presentation and red flag signs. • Formulate an evidence-based diagnostic plan, including appropriate use of imaging and laboratory investigations. • Recognize common infectious, inflammatory, neoplastic, and vascular etiologies of pediatric proptosis and their distinguishing features. • Implement timely management and referral strategies to preserve vision and coordinate multidisciplinary care when indicated.

1:40 – 1:55	Panel Discussion / Q&A
1:55 – 2:25	Break
2:25 – 2:45	<p>Dr. Murad Husein – <i>A Collaborative Multidisciplinary Approach to Pediatric Epiphora</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to describe the shared care approach in the management of pediatric epiphora. • At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to identify key endonasal anatomical structures related to the nasolacrimal duct system. • At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to explain endonasal surgical approaches and justify their use in managing pediatric epiphora.
2:45 – 3:05	<p>Dr. David Lawrence – <i>The Refractive Management of the Aphakic Child</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the need for optical rehabilitation in aphakic infants and children. • Review the available modalities for optical rehabilitation of aphakic infants and children. • Compare the advantages and limitations of the different rehabilitation modalities. • Describe the contact lens options available for the management of aphakic infants and children.
3:05 – 3:25	<p>Dr. Maha Saleh – <i>Genes Behind the Scenes: Overview of the Southwest Ontario Ocular Genetics Pathway</i></p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the structure, services, and referral process of the Southwest Ontario Regional Genetics program. • Discuss Cytogenetic and Molecular genetic test modalities. • Highlight the role of an Ocular Genetic diagnosis and impact on patient care.
3:25 – 3:40	Panel Discussion / Q&A
3:40 – 3:50	Closing remarks
3:50 – 4:00	Completion of evaluation forms

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Mishari Dahrab



Dr. Mishari Dahrab is a Kuwaiti National that has trained and worked in Canada for over 15-years. Dr. Dahrab completed a 5-year Ophthalmology residency training program at McGill University in 2009. This was followed by a 2-year Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship under the supervision of renowned Strabismologist, Dr. G. Robert LaRoche, in Halifax, Canada. Dr. Dahrab joined Dalhousie University as faculty in 2017 and was the Ophthalmology residency program director, 2019-2024.

Dr. Dahrab is the current head of division for pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus at the IWK Health Centre, Halifax-Nova Scotia. Dr. Dahrab's clinical interests are pediatric cataracts and complex adult strabismus.

Dr. Inas Makar



Dr. Inas Makar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at Western University, specializing in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus. Her field of interest covers wide variety of conditions including Pediatric and adult strabismus, Pediatric cataract, Pediatric Lid procedures and Pediatric lacrimal disorders.

Dr. Makar is deeply committed to teaching, training the next generation of ophthalmologists, and is actively involved in clinical education at Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Dr. Sapna Sharan



Dr. Sharan specializes in pediatric ophthalmology, adult strabismus, and a very keen interest in pediatric glaucomas. She currently holds the position of Associate Professor at Western University and was Director of the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum for Ophthalmology for several years until 2022.

Dr. Sharan has undergone broad Ophthalmology training. After finishing medical school and ophthalmology residency in India, she fellowship trained in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at the Save Sight Institute/Sydney Eye Hospital, University of Sydney and then at the IWK Health Centre, Dalhousie University, Halifax.

Dr. Sharan is also trained in glaucoma with fellowship training at Toronto Western Hospital, University of Toronto.

Presently Dr Sharan plays a leadership role in the department's promotions committee.

**Dr. Ana Marissa
Lagman-Bartolome**



Dr. Marissa Lagman is a Fellow of the American Headache Society and UCNS Diplomate in Headache Medicine. She is an Associate Professor in Pediatrics (Neurology) and Clinical Neurological Sciences (CNS), Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University in London, Ontario.

She is the Director of the Comprehensive Pediatric Headache Center and Young Adult Headache Transition Clinic and the Director of the Education Program of Pediatric Neurology at the Children's Hospital in London Health Sciences Center.

She continues to be an adjunct faculty staff at the University of Toronto doing research projects and clinical associate at the Hospital for Sick Children at University of Toronto.

Dr. Lulu Bursztyn



Dr. Bursztyn completed a BEng at McMaster University, an MSc and MD at Queen's University, her ophthalmology residency at Western University, and a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at the University of Michigan. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Clinical Neurological Sciences at Western University.

She has authored 54 publications, and her clinical and research interests include pituitary tumors, giant cell arteritis, medical education, and optic disc drusen. She is a founding member of the international Optic Disc Drusen Studies Consortium and the Women in Neuro-ophthalmology committee within the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society. She currently serves as co-Program Director for the Ophthalmology Residency Program at Western.

Dr. Bursztyn is also the Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology Surgery with Ontario Health. Outside of work, she enjoys climbing and spending time with her family.

Dr. Rod Lim



Dr. Lim is a Professor and Medical Director / Section Head of the Paediatric Emergency Department at the Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre. He began his medical training at Queen's University and Paediatric and Paediatric Emergency training at the University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Lim has been involved with the Royal College Specialty Committee in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) and the International Society of Emergency Medicine.

He enjoys teaching, research and leadership, and is passionate about advancing Physician wellbeing. He is delighted to speak today on the Paediatric Emergency experience relating to ophthalmologic complaints.

Dr. Yiannis Iordanous



Dr. Yiannis Iordanous is a Comprehensive Ophthalmologist with subspecialty training in Pediatric Ophthalmology. He currently practices at the Ivey Eye Institute located in St Joseph's Health Care London and at Laser Vision London. He holds the rank of Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario. He undertook his undergraduate studies in Life Sciences at the University of Toronto. This was followed by medical school and Ophthalmology residency at the Schulich School of Medicine, at Western University. He then went on to complete fellowship training in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Iordanous has a strong interest in medical education, and completed his Masters in Health Professions Education (MHPE) in 2021 through a program jointly offered by Western University and the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. He recently completed his term as Ophthalmology Residency Program Director at Western University and is currently a member of the Residency Program Committee.

In 2021, 2023 and 2024, Dr. Iordanous was awarded the Western University Department of Surgery Clerkship Faculty Teaching Award, in recognition of being voted the most outstanding faculty teacher in ophthalmology by the clinical clerks. In 2021 Dr. Iordanous was awarded with a prestigious national teaching award, the Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Certificate of Merit Award.

When not attending to his busy practice, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three children.

Dr. Murad Husein



Dr. Husein is a Pediatric Otolaryngologist and Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at the Western University.

Dr. Husein is the Director of the Velopharyngeal Dysfunction Clinic and Pediatric Airway Clinics at London Health Sciences Centre.

His personal interests include trekking around the world and watching Bloomberg!

Dr. David Lawrence



Dr. David Lawrence graduated with distinction and summa cum laude from the Honours Biology/Pharmacology program at McMaster University in 1997. He went on to earn his Doctor of Optometry at the University of Waterloo School of Optometry in 2001. During his optometric studies he completed an externship at Houston Eye Associates where he gained clinical experience in general and retinal ophthalmology.

Dr. Lawrence has participated in numerous drug and contact lens related clinical trials but his enthusiasm is reserved for clinical care. While Dr. Lawrence enjoys all aspects of optometric and vision care he has a passion for paediatric eye care and specialty contact lenses.

Dr. Maha Saleh

Dr. Maha Saleh is a Physician Geneticist at London Health Sciences Centre. She completed her medical training at King Abdul Aziz University in Saudi Arabia and her Royal Collage Medical Genetics Residency Program at the University of Toronto, SickKids Hospital. She later joined London as staff in 2017 and became an Associate Professor at Schulich School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Saleh's practice is board and includes prenatal Genetics, both Adult and Pediatric General Genetics, Ocular Genetics as well as Cancer Genetics. Dr. Saleh is currently Section head of the Southwest Ontario Regional Genetics Program. She is also the Program Director of the Canadian College for Medical Genetics (CCMG) fellowship program in London.

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1. Dr. Munir Iqbal – **SPC Chair**
2. Dr. Matthew Anderson
3. Dr. David Plemel

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