

THE INAUGURAL RETINA FUTURE FORUM



August 27, 2026 (Thu)



12:00 - 18:00



Central Room A, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

PROGRAM RUNDOWN

12:00 - 13:00

Registration and Welcome Lunch

13:00 - 13:05

Opening Remarks



Andrew Chang
Australia

13:05 - 13:35

Session 1: From Clinical Insight to First-in-Human Study

Chairs



David Almeida
USA



Hemal Mehta
Australia

Phase 1 Program Running in Australia

Ali Ardakani

Cell Therapy Pipeline

Jodie Madden

Non-Invasive Ultrasound-Based Drug Delivery for Retinal Diseases: From Clinical Insight to First-in-Human Study

Kelvin Teo

Advancing Ophthalmology Beyond Anti-VEGF

Patrick Bussfeld

13:35 - 14:05

Session 2: Regulatory Pathways: What Retina Innovators Need to Know

Chairs



Andrew Chang
Australia



Nicole Eter
Germany

Regulatory Pathway in the USA

Brad Doershuck

Single Trial Approval Pathway in the US FDA

Peter K. Kaiser

High Level Overview of the Regulatory Pathway in Europe

Stefan Scheidl

Regulatory Pathway in Asia-Pacific

Robert Lin

Panel Discussion and Q&A



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14:05 - 14:35

Session 3: Funding Retinal Innovation: VC, Pharma, Grants and Strategic Partnerships

Chairs



Andrew Low
Australia



Graham Hay-Smith
Australia

Hong Kong: Superconnector Where East Meets the West

Dennis Lam

Funding Retinal Innovation

Andrew Low

AI in Accelerating the Medical Product Life Cycle

Daniel Ting

Panel Discussion and Q&A

14:35 - 15:00

Ask the Masters: Unfiltered Dialogue

Chairs



Andrew Chang
Australia



Anat Loewenstein
Israel

Panel Discussion



Patrick
Bussfeld



Michael
Cardamone



Nancy
Holekamp



Norman
Chan



Peter
Morgan
Warren

15:00 - 15:15

Coffee Break & Networking

15:15 - 16:00

Session 4: Next Generation Retinal Therapeutics (Second Generation anti-VEGF, TKI, Gene Therapy, Novel Pathways)

Chairs



Gemmy Cheung
Singapore



Michael Singer
USA

Panel 1: TKI

Gemmy Cheung
Victor Chong
Jeffrey Heier
Michael Singer
Q&A 1:
TKIs – Same or Different

Panel 2: Gene Therapy

Dina Akasheh
David Almeida
Randall Wong
Q&A 2:
Gene Therapy – Same or Different

Panel 3: Novel Pathways

Patricio Schlottmann
Anders Haegerstrand
Sergio Leal
Q&A 3:
Future of Durability Strategies



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16:00 - 16:30

Session 5: Emerging Innovations in Diagnostics and Surgery in Vitreoretinal Diseases

Chairs



Timothy Lai
Hong Kong, China



Rishi Singh
USA

The DREAM Ultra-Widefield Multimodal Imaging Solution for Vitreoretinal Diseases

Charles Wang

Beyond the Periphery: Expanding Vision Through Ultra-widefield Imaging, AI and Functional Insights

Anne Marie Cairns

AAV-mediated Gene Therapy in Bietti Crystalline Corneoretinal Dystrophy (BCD)

Liping Yang

ACUTY Study on the Use of Privosegtor in Acute Optic Neuritis: Post-hoc Analysis of OCT Findings

Timothy Lai

LensOne

Matthew Simunovic

When Technology Adapts to you - Shaping the Future of Vitreoretinal Surgery

Michael Cardamone

16:30 - 16:55

Session 6: Startup Spotlight & Speed Pitch

Chairs



Sérgio Leal
Switzerland



Kelvin Teo
Singapore

AI Startups and Innovation in Retinal Healthcare - To Fund or Not to Fund?

Darius Moshfeghi

A Light-Activated Retinal Adhesive Platform for Retinal Detachment Repair: From Preclinical Validation to Clinical Translation

Matthew Simunovic

Precision Patient Measurement for Retinal Therapies: Faster, Smarter, Scalable

Eva Fenwick

Opharmic: Building Non-Invasive Solutions for the Posterior Segment

Langston Suen

16:55 - 17:15

Session 7: Why Retinal Trials Fail - and How to Avoid the Pitfalls

Chairs



Brad Doerschuk
USA



Colin Tan
Singapore

Panelists



Victor Chong



Thomas Hong



Sergio Leal



Shriji Patel



Quan Dong
Nguyen



RETINA FUTURE FORUM



PROGRAM RUNDOWN

17:15 - 17:50
(ROUNDTABLE)

Retina Innovation Exchange

Chair



Hemal Mehta
Australia

17:50 - 18:00
(SUMMARY)

Theme

Table Chair

Speakers

First-In-Human and
Early-Phase Retina Trials



David Almeida

Rupesh Agrawal
De-Kuang Hwang
Robert Lin

Regulatory Strategy



Anna Tan

Brad Doerschuk
Nicole Eter
Jeffrey Heier
Annabelle Okada

Funding Retinal
Innovation



Graham Hay-Smith

Ali Ardakani
Andrew Low
Wei Chi-Wu

Industry Partnerships



Nitin Verma

Yi-Ting Hsieh
Peter Kaiser
Anat Loewenstein
Colin Tan

AI and Imaging



Chandra
Balaratnasingam

Svetlana Cherepanoff
Catherine Egan
Rishi Singh
Daniel Ting

The Future of Reading
Centres



Gemmy Cheung

Thomas Hong
Kimberley Spooner
Stela Vujosevic

Gene, Cell and Novel
Therapies



James Wong

Guy Chen
Adrian Fung
Gavin Tan
Liping Yang

Asia-Pacific Trial
Feasibility



Lawrence Lee

Victor Chong
Dania Qatarnah
Tai-Chi Lin

Startup Pitch Refinement



Matthew Simunovic

Devinder Chauhan
Michael Singer
Kelvin Teo

18:00 onwards

Closing Pearls & Networking Cocktail

Recognition and Appreciation of Our Contributors

