



THE INAUGURAL RETINA FUTURE FORUM

August 27, 2026 (Thu) **12:00 - 18:00**

Central Room A, Gold Coast Convention Center

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

Norman Chan

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

14:05 - 14:35 Session 3: Funding Retinal Innovation: VC, Pharma, Grants and Strategic Partnerships

Chairs



Andrew Low
USA



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



Jodie Madden



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

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

ACUITY 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



Sergio Leal
Switzerland



Kelvin Teo
Singapore

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

Daniel Ting

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 Doershuck
USA



Colin Tan
Singapore



Victor Chong



Thomas Hong



Sergio Leal



Shriji Patel



Quan Dong Nguyen

17:15 - 17:50 (ROUNDTABLE)
17:50 - 18:00 (SUMMARY)
Retina Innovation Exchange

Chair



Hemal Mehta
Australia

Theme	Table Chair	Speakers	Theme	Table Chair	Speakers
First-In-Human and Early-Phase Retina Trials	David Almeida	Rupesh Agrawal De-Kuang Hwang Robert Lin	The Future of Reading Centres	Gemmy Cheung	Thomas Hong Kimberley Spooner Stela Vujosevic
Regulatory Strategy	Anna Tan	Brad Doershuck Nicole Eter Jeffrey Heier Annabelle Okada	Gene, Cell and Novel Therapies	James Wong	Mark Barakat Adrian Fung Cavin Tan Liping Yang
Funding Retinal Innovation	Graham Hay-Smith	Ali Ardakani Andrew Low Wei Chi-Wu	Asia-Pacific Trial Feasibility	Lawrence Lee	Victor Chong Dania Qataneh Tai-Chi Lin
Industry Partnerships	Nitin Verma	Yi-Ting Hsieh Peter Kaiser Anat Loewenstein Colin Tan	Startup Pitch Refinement	Matthew Simunovic	Davinder Chauhan Michael Singer Kelvin Teo
AI and Imaging	Chandra Balaratnasingam	Svetlana Cherepanoff Catherine Egan Rishi Singh Daniel Ting			

Recognition and Appreciation of Our Contributors

