

## The Keratoconus Self-Help and Support Association Tenth Conference Speaker Biographies

### **Stephen Tuft, MChir, MD, FRCOphth, FRACS**



Trained as an ophthalmologist in New Zealand, with further specialist training in Adelaide, South Australia. Studied for a higher degree at the Institute of Ophthalmology in London with Professor John Marshall, with an appointment as clinical lecturer at Moorfields Eye Hospital, before returning as a consultant to New Zealand. Appointed as consultant ophthalmologist at Moorfields Eye Hospital specialising in cataract, cornea, and external eye disease. Research interests include corneal infection, corneal stem cell therapy, and the molecular genetics of inherited corneal disease. In collaboration with Professors Alison Hardcastle and Alice Davidson we have described 5 new genes that cause corneal dystrophy or anterior segment dysgenesis. We recently led an international collaboration that published the first large genome wide association study of keratoconus, with subsequent publication of the use of machine learning to improve the early detection of keratoconus. I have supervised several higher degree students and hold an appointment as honorary Professor at UCL.

### **Dr. Trusit Dave, PhD, BSc(Hons), MCOptom, FAAO.**



Trusit is an Optometrist, Researcher and Inventor. He has a PhD which involved research into corneal topography, aberrometry and the development of topography-based algorithms. He is the Founder of a specialist Optometry practice in Coventry, England which he still owns. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Trusit has published papers in various journals and also the co-author of Orthokeratology: Principles & Practice. Trusit has lectured all over the World and is a consultant to the medical device industry, a medico legal expert and co-inventor of a technology owned by Topcon. Trusit is the Founder and Chairman of Optimed which is the developer of CAPTIV8 Connect, a patient engagement, e-referral and digital healthcare solution for ophthalmologists and optometrists.

## **Martin Rubinstein**



After graduation from Aston University, Martin has worked for over 40 years in various NHS hospitals including Cheltenham General Hospital, Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital , Moorfields Eye Hospital and Nottingham University Hospital. Throughout this period he has interacted with numerous patients with keratoconus, working as part of a multidisciplinary team .

He is currently a Specialist Optometrist at Leicester Royal Infirmary and an Honorary Professor at Aston and Leicester Universities .

Clinical interests are in cornea and ocular surface, contact lens practice and visual impairment.

He has broad experience in teaching, training and research and is an Examiner for the College of Optometrists and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists .

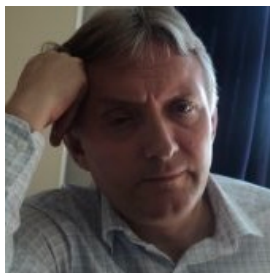
## **Sally Hayes**



After graduating from Aberystwyth University in 2000 with a First Class Honours in Animal Science, Sally took up a 5-year MRC funded Research Assistant position within the Structural Biophysics Group at Cardiff University to study the relationship between corneal structure and function in keratoconus and was awarded a PhD for her work in 2005.

Since then, she has continued to develop this line of research as an MRC-funded Research Fellow at Cardiff University, investigating the structural basis of keratoconus and the development of corneal cross-linking therapies. In 2013, Sally co-founded the UK-Crosslinking Consortium to bring together scientists and clinicians for the collaborative advancement of research into corneal cross-linking.

## Mike Oliver



Mike was diagnosed with KC in 1964 and is in his 59<sup>th</sup> year of scleral lens wear. He joined the Keratoconus Group in its early stages and was responsible for its registration as a charity in 1996, also chairing the Group for many years and now remaining a trustee. Now semi-retired, Mike is a chartered legal executive and worked originally in the accident and negligence sector, but has been a specialist road transport lawyer for over 30 years. He is a director/trustee of the Road Operations Safety Council, a road safety charity. Over the last 2 years he has taken on the role of LXP (Lived Experience Practitioner) in long-term conditions (mental and physical) with London Mental Health Transformation Review, part of NHS Healthy Living Partnership. He is also a founder member of Lewisham Talking Therapies (IAPT) Service User Advisory Group

## Julia Smythe



Julia has been the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) at Croydon Moorfields for 7 years. ECLOs are the link between the hospital and any external agencies that may support the patient with their sight loss. Moorfields has 11 ECLOs covering each of their 32 sites across London and South East. She works closely with local authorities and sight loss charities ensuring that patients needs are provided. She is passionate about her job, but in her spare time she enjoys the peace and quiet of her allotment.

## Ken Pullum



Ken has been at the forefront of Keratoconus treatment/management for many years and has been Principal Optometrist in Scleral Lens Service Moorfields and John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. He has authored/co-authored many papers and articles on KC and contact lens - particularly scleral lens - and was also founding partner of Innovative Sclerals Ltd, also formerly principal of Hertford Optometry. His regular symposiums on KC and its management, featuring practical sessions involving patients, provide practitioners with a valuable insight into managing the condition. His passion for this work is well known and he has been a valuable friend to the KC Group throughout. Ken has also helped hospitals both here and abroad to develop a scleral lens service.