Keynote Forum

Day 1
North Carolina macular dystrophy: Mutations found and new clinical findings

Purpose: We originally reported four mutations affecting PRDM13 in 11 families causing North Carolina Macular Dystrophy (NCMD/MCDR1). The purpose of this report is to present the analysis of an international cohort of an additional 10 families with NCMD.

Methods: We performed Sanger DNA sequencing of the DNASE 1 hypersensitivity binding site up stream of PRDM13 (chr6:100040800-100040950) in the family members with NCMD.

Results: Of the 10 new families studied with NCMD, six were found to have the same mutation as the original North Carolina family (Chr6: 100040906 G>T Het) and all families were in the USA. Four were found to have the "French mutation" (Chr6:100040987 G>C Het), three were European and one was American.

Conclusion: Additional families with the NCMD phenotype continue to support that these mutations are causative of MCDR1/NCMD.

Biography

Kent W Small is a board-certified Ophthalmologist with years of specialized training and over two decades of experience in retinal disorders, making him a leading expert in his field. He is a Professor and the Director of Macular Disease Center and Retinal Research Lab at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.

kentsmall@hotmail.com
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Day 2

Global Ophthalmology 2016
Emerging trends in optometry in the Gulf of Oman and MENA regions

Optometry remains in its early stages of development in the Gulf of Oman and MENA regions although it started in Sudan as early as in the year 1954. In Oman the first batch of students graduated in 2015 from the only Optometry program available in the country. Visual impairment and preventable blindness affect large populations in these regions. While there is a need to maintain a primary care focus in professional optometry education there is also a need to consider diverse career pathways to ensure sustainable employment of qualified optometry graduates. Tradition, socio-cultural factors, technology, knowledge gaps, and economic factors and the like influence employment. For instance mostly women students join optometry programs in these regions. But due to socio cultural factors and tradition women graduates are most unlikely to leave their country of origin for work. Graduates tend to choose government employment over entrepreneurial initiatives. Technology and allied knowledge gaps between the developing and developed nations grow ever wider escalating overdependence on the developed nations. Overdependence promotes mediocrity in professional education as it confuses imitation with replication. It also overburdens already struggling economies due to high cost of imports. Due to these contextual constraints early steps are being taken to ensure closer contextual relevance of curricula while maintaining global orientation. This presentation aims to outline the paradigm shift taking place in the design of Optometry curricula in the Gulf of Oman and MENA regions with a special focus on Optometry in Oman, and Sudan.

Biography

J F Thomas has completed his PhD from the Manipal University, India. He was awarded the Late Dr. T.M. A. Pai Fellowship to pursue his PhD. He holds Post-graduate degrees in Hospital and Health Systems Management, Philosophy and a second degree in Medical Record Science. He is the Dean of the College of Health Sciences, University of Buraimi in Oman. He is a PhD Thesis Adjudicator and Master’s Thesis Guide. He is an External Reviewer for the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority. His publications include 5 textbooks for Distance Education Programs. His invention of a Low Cost IV Trainer is under Patent consideration.

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