Programme: **Tuesday 19 May**

11.30am-12.30pm PARALLEL SESSION

The Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) in Ophthalmology: A Strategic Response to Workforce Challenges

This symposium will explore the evolving role of Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs) within modern ophthalmology services, defining their scope of practice and position as Master's-level educated professionals capable of autonomous clinical decision-making. It will outline the structured educational and training pathways underpinning ACP practice, including credentialing, leadership development, and clinical competency acquisition. The session will examine how ACP-led services address key workforce challenges highlighted in the RCOphth Census, demonstrating their impact on capacity, sustainability, and service resilience. Practical examples of ACP-led subspecialty clinics will illustrate the complexity of care delivered and the contribution of ACPs to high-quality, patient-centred ophthalmic services.