



Tuesday 19 May 11.30 – 12.30 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.

Symposium chaired by Miss Neda Qurashi, Advanced Clinical Practitioner (UCL), Specialist Orthoptist and Honorary Associate Lecturer.

11.30am - 11.50am: Professor Rashmi Mathew, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:

An overview of the Advanced Clinical Practice Master's degree in Adult Ophthalmology at UCL: Curriculum, competencies, scope of practice and clinical application.

11.50am - 12.10pm: Professor Charlotte Codina, Professional Lead for Orthoptics & Ophthalmology:

An overview of the Advanced Clinical Practice Master's degree in Paediatric Ophthalmology at The University of Sheffield: Curriculum, competencies, scope of practice and clinical application.

12.10 – 12.25pm: Mr David Lunt, Consultant Ophthalmologist (Glaucoma): Experience and benefits of incorporating multi-disciplinary staff and ACPs in Glaucoma services.

12.25pm – 12.30pm: Questions for panel