Wednesday 20 May 14.30 – 15.30 Vision screening under review: need, equity, and evolution

In the UK, vision screening varies widely across regions due to the lack of a national mandate. Several screening approaches exist but few have undergone robust evaluation. Recent evidence shows rising rates of refractive errors and binocular vision anomalies in children aged 3.5–5.5 years, with higher burdens among disadvantaged groups. This symposium highlights inequities and presents collaborative interdisciplinary approaches. **Symposium Chair Professor Bruce Evans, Optometrist**

14.30 – 14.45 Prevalence and Trends in Refractive Error and Binocular Vision Anomalies in Early Childhood
This talk will present recent epidemiological data on the increasing rates of refractive error and binocular vision anomalies in children aged 3.5 to 5.5 years in Scotland, with implications for early detection and intervention.
Dr Miriam Conway, Orthoptist

14.45 – 15.00 Social and Environmental Determinants of Vision Screening Outcomes
This presentation will explore how factors such as socioeconomic deprivation, housing type, and population density influence screening outcomes and access to follow-up care.
Professor Bruce Evans, Optometrist

15.00 – 15.15 Glasses in Classes - an approach to more effective school vision screening?
This talk will describe the features of the Glasses in Classes trial that was designed to support schools and parents to encourage pupils to obtain and wear glasses they need. The trial design fostered greater collaboration between education and eyecare professionals, and offers a possible model for how school vision screening might develop to deliver better outcomes.
Professor Brendan Barrett, Optometrist

15.15 – 15.30 Debate: Do changing eye care needs require screening programmes to evolve?
This session explores the changing nature of refractive errors and binocular vision anomalies in children in the UK and invites debate on whether a screening programme designed to concentrate on amblyopia in young children is fit for purpose in the 21st Century.