

EPSAA 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting

Eye Physicians and Surgeons Association of Alberta 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting Banff Park Lodge & Conference Centre Banff, Alberta February 7-8, 2025

Program Learning Objectives:

At the end of the meeting, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss modern approaches to diabetic retinopathy.
2. Build on knowledge of contemporary neuro-ophthalmic diagnoses.
3. Evaluate approaches to glaucoma care.
4. Build on knowledge of clinical presentations and risk factors for visual loss due to systemic medications.
5. Update their knowledge on novel research being performed by resident physicians in Alberta.

This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS). You may claim a maximum of 5.5 hours (credits are automatically calculated). The specific opinions and content of this event are not necessarily those of COS, and are the responsibility of the organizer(s) alone. Through an agreement between the RSPSC and the American Medical Association, physicians may convert MOC credits to AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Information on the process to convert MOC credit to AMA credit can be found at www.ama-assn.org/go/internationalcme.

Accredited programming only occurs on Saturday, February 8th.

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Program

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2025	
4:00 – 8:00	Registration Desk Open
5:00 to 7:00	EPSAA Annual General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPSAA members only
7:00 to 9:00	Welcome Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ophthalmologists, trainees, technicians and office staff welcome.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025	
7:30 to 8:30	BREAKFAST
8:30 to 9:00	Session 1: Preop, Intraop, and Postop Surgical Management of Diabetic Retinopathy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jay Sridhar
9:00 to 9:30	Session 2: Five Neuro-ophthalmic Diagnoses that You Cannot Afford to Miss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Andy Lee
9:30 to 10:00	Session 3: My Experience using a Novel Handheld Non Phaco Cataract Extraction Device - MICOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Inder Paul Singh
10:00 to 10:30	BREAK
10:30 to 11:00	Session 4: Private Equity and the Changing Landscape of Retina Care in the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nika Bagheri
11:00 to 11:30	Session 5: Five Medicines that can blind your next patient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Andy Lee
11:30-12:00	Session 6: Addressing the Unhappy Post Cataract Patient - Could Vitreous Opacities be the reason? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Inder Paul Singh
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-1:30	Session 7: Modern Approach to Scleral Buckling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jay Sridhar
1:30-2:00	Session 8: Spaceflight associated neuro-ocular syndrome (SANS): The neuro-ophthalmology of outer space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Andy Lee
2:00-2:30	Session 9/10 (Residents' Presentations): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Alberta Resident • University of Calgary Resident
2:30-3:00	BREAK
3:00-3:30	Session 11: How to Incorporate an Interventional Glaucoma Mindset into Clinical Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Inder Paul Singh
3:30-4:00	Session 12: Approaching the Advanced Diabetic Retinopathy Patient: Early versus Late Surgery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nika Bagheri
4:00-6:00	FREE TIME
6:00-7:00	GALA DINNER (EPSAA Members, Guests & Sponsors) Reception 6:00, Dinner 7:00

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Program Faculty

Dr. Nika Bagheri, MD



Dr. Nika Bagheri was born and raised in Southern California in the United States. After graduating as valedictorian of her high school class, she accepted a full merit scholarship to attend the University of California-Irvine where she graduated cum laude with a degree in Neurobiology. She then received a full scholarship to attend the Cleveland Clinic Lerner School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio where she earned special qualification in biomedical research and a Research to Prevent Blindness Research Fellowship for her work regarding microglia in age-related macular degeneration. Dr. Bagheri subsequently completed her ophthalmology residency at the world-renowned Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During her time at Wills she served as co-editor of the best-selling Wills Eye Manual. After graduating from Wills she spent two years as vitreoretinal surgical retina fellow at the top-ranked Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida. Dr. Bagheri has since practiced in her hometown in Westlake Village, California and the surrounding areas, first in private practice and now as a physician at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group.

Dr. Bagheri has numerous peer-reviewed publications and has been an invited speaker and/or panelist to several international meetings including Retina Society, the Vit-Buckle Society, Women in Ophthalmology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the South African Vitreoretinal Society Congress. She serves on the Executive Board of the Vit-Buckle Society, the fastest growing retina society in the United States supporting younger retinal specialists.

Dr. I. Paul Singh, MD



Dr. I. Paul Singh, a Wisconsin native, joined The Eye Centers of Racine and Kenosha, founded in 1981 by his father, Dr. Kanwar A. Singh, in 2004 as the area's only glaucoma specialist, graduating from the Duke University glaucoma fellowship program. Throughout his Ophthalmology career, Dr. I. Paul Singh has been involved with clinical research and has published papers in several ophthalmology journals. He has also presented his research at various national meetings and universities around the world. Dr. I. Paul Singh has a passion for advancing education and technology. He has brought several new technologies to the area, through adoption and research. Dr. Singh is the first ophthalmologist in the state of Wisconsin to implant many of the glaucoma devices including the iStent and Hydrus glaucoma drainage devices, perform viscodilation and trabeculotomy with the OMNI device, and goniotomy with the Kahook Dual Blade, and recently the Streamline and iAccess devices as well as the iTrack Advance. He was the first surgeon in Wisconsin to use novel drug delivery products for glaucoma and for inflammation, such as Durysta, Dextenza and Dexycu. He has also pioneered the use of in-office lasers to remove visually significant floaters. Recently, he set up the world's

first 3D heads up in office surgical suite. He enjoys giving lectures and teaching seminars around the globe to help other doctors adopt these and other newer technologies and techniques. Recently Dr. Singh was listed as one of the Top 100 ophthalmologists in the United States according to Newsweek magazine.

Although Dr. I. Paul Singh is an ophthalmologist by profession, He is also a founding member of the band, Funkadesi, which mixes Indo-Afro-Caribbean styles of music. The band tours the world spreading the message "one family, many children." Dr. I. Paul Singh is also an avid tennis player, playing four years in college, and continuing to play on USTA leagues today. He enjoys music and sports with his wife and three children at home. He often remarks, "Kids seem to put life in perspective."

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Dr. Jayanth Sridhar, MD



Dr. Jayanth Sridhar is a native of Miami, Florida in the United States. A graduate of the University of Miami undergraduate and medical school as part of the Honors Program in Medicine, he completed his internship in internal medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, earning “Intern of the Year” Honors. He then completed ophthalmology residency training at the top-ranked Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, FL, followed by vitreoretinal surgical fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital, where he was named “Fellow of the Year”. Dr. Sridhar served as full-time faculty for 7 years at Bascom Palmer, where he was named “Professor of the Year” by the ophthalmology residents, prior to his move to fill the vacant chief position at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center in Sylmar, California. He is currently Chief of Ophthalmology at Olive View Medical Center and Associate Professor of Health Sciences at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). In his first year at UCLA Dr. Sridhar was named “Teacher of the Year” by the ophthalmology residents.

He has over 250 peer-reviewed publications and serves as co-editor of Current Opinion in Ophthalmology, in addition to his editorial board roles for both Retina Today and Retinal Physician. He has received the Senior Honor Award from the American Society of Retinal Specialists and the Secretariat Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He is an inductee into the Retina and Macula Societies, and he currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Vit-Buckle Society, where he is also the Vice-President of Education. Dr. Sridhar is also the creator and host of two leading podcasts in ophthalmology, the award-winning “Straight From the Cutter’s Mouth: A Retina Podcast”, and “Experts InSight”, the official podcast of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Andrew G. Lee, MD



Andrew G. Lee, M.D. is the Herb and Jean Lyman Centennial Chair in Ophthalmology and is the Founding Chairman of the Blanton Eye Institute, Department of Ophthalmology at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. He is Professor of Ophthalmology, Neurology, and Neurosurgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and an adjunct professor of Ophthalmology at Baylor College of Medicine; Texas A and M College of Medicine; University of Iowa and the University of Buffalo; and Clinical Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas and the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center.

He is a graduate of the University of Virginia (UVA) undergraduate and UVA School of Medicine. He was an ophthalmology resident and chief resident at Baylor College of Medicine and a clinical neuro-ophthalmology fellow and Fight for Sight postdoctoral research fellow at the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Dr. Lee has served in numerous leadership roles at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and has received the AAO Achievement Award, Senior Achievement Award, Secretariat Award (three times), and Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a past President, a past Chairman of the Board, and Senior VP for Advocacy of the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society.

Dr. Lee has received the teaching award 15 times at 7 different academic institutions including the Osler Excellence in Teaching Award, the Baylor College of Medicine Dan B. Jones Teaching Award, University of Iowa Charles Phelps Award, the Texas A and M Mid Career Education award, the HMH Presidential Excellence in Education, and the Houston Methodist Hospital Sherilynn Gordon Memorial Leadership Award.

Dr. Lee has been the invited speaker at over 400 national and international medical meetings; has written over 600 peer-reviewed publications and 14 full textbooks; and has given 15 named lectures. He lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, Hilary; his two daughters (Rachael and Virginia), and his two cats (Lola and Miss Kitty).

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Presentations and Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, participants will be able to:

Session 1: Preop, Intraop, and Postop Surgical Management of Diabetic Retinopathy

1. Assess preoperative risk factors for successful and unsuccessful diabetic retinopathy surgery
2. Incorporate different techniques for segmentation and delamination of surgical planes during diabetic vitrectomy
3. Understand the range and severity of post-operative complications after diabetic surgery

Session 2: Five neuro-ophthalmic diagnoses that you cannot afford to miss

1. Define five potentially life or vision threatening neuro-ophthalmic conditions including arteritis, apoplexy, arterial dissection, abscess, and aneurysm
2. Describe the key and differentiating clinical findings of the five conditions
3. Describe the radiographic features of the above five conditions

Session 3: My Experience using a Novel Handheld Non Phaco Cataract Extraction Device - MICOR

1. Discuss the actual technology.
2. Describe the learning curve and technique.
3. Discuss the data presented.

Session 4: Private Equity and the Changing Landscape of Retina Care in the United States

1. Analyze the changing ownership trends in retina practice in the United States.
2. Interpret and synthesize relevant data regarding the impact of private equity acquisitions short-term and long-term on healthcare delivery.

Session 5: Five medicines that can blind your next patient

1. Describe the clinical presentations and risk factors for visual loss due to systemic medications including ethambutol, erectile dysfunction agents, hydroxychloroquine, amiodarone, and tetracyclines.
2. Define the best screening strategies for visual toxicity for the above medications.

Session 6: Addressing the Unhappy Post Cataract Patient - Could Vitreous Opacities be the reason?

1. Describe how vitreous opacities can be the cause of poor quality of vision post cataract surgery.
2. Discuss YAG vitreolysis and a novel Pars Plans Vitrector that does not use trocars and allows for anterior segment surgeons to perform a PPV safely.
3. Present Data from a prospective trial describing the safety and efficacy of limited vitreous removal.

Session 7: Modern Approach to Scleral Buckling

1. Expand their indications for treating rhegmatogenous retinal detachment with a primary scleral buckle.
2. Utilize various techniques for visualization during scleral buckling surgery, including chandelier and light pipe assisted visualization.

Session 8: Spaceflight associated neuro-ocular syndrome (SANS): The neuro-ophthalmology of outer space

1. Define the neuro-ocular findings of spaceflight in SANS.
2. Describe potential countermeasures for SANS.

Session 9/10: Residents' Presentations (University of Calgary and University of Alberta)

Session 11: How to Incorporate an Interventional Glaucoma Mindset into Clinical Practice

1. Discuss the impact of poor compliance and adherence on glaucoma progression and office efficiencies.
2. Describe the various technologies to incorporate, i.e. DSLT, MIGS, MIBS.
3. Describe how to incorporate these technologies into clinical practice and minimize learning curve and staff adoption.

Session 12: Approaching the Advanced Diabetic Retinopathy Patient: Early versus Late Surgery

1. Compare and contrast the benefits and downsides of early vitrectomy for patients with advanced diabetic retinopathy.
2. Evaluate best practices for diabetic retinopathy surgery especially with regards to intraoperative visualization of vitreous and pan retinal laser photocoagulation.