

Myopia Management

At Two Major Meetings, Researchers, Clinicians and Optical Companies Share Latest Learnings About Myopia

BY VM STAFF

As record numbers of children and adults around the world suffer from myopia and its effects, the conversation about this common but potentially serious eye condition has been steadily broadening. With the crisis now reaching global proportions, growing numbers of eyecare practitioners and allied health care professionals, as well as parents and children, are understanding that failing to manage myopia from an early age can result in serious ocular health problems that may eventually cause blindness.

New research findings are spurring action on many fronts, lending an urgency to the development and adoption of new products and treatments, including contact and spectacle lenses aimed specifically at slowing myopia progression. This was evident at two major professional meetings held last month: The International Myopia Conference, held in September in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and T.H.E. Summit, a gathering of Treehouse Eyes practitioners held in Las Vegas during Vision Expo West. Both meetings provided a forum for researchers, clinicians and lens designers to share the latest myopia



knowledge. The following articles, originally published in *Review of Myopia Management*, describe both myopia meetings and summarize the learnings that were shared among attendees.

As more eyecare professionals are learning how to best manage myopia progression, the mainstream media is also calling attention to the myopia crisis. The publication last month of an article in *The Atlantic*, titled “The Myopia Generation, Why do so many kids need glasses now?” provides a global overview of myopia, including the rates of myopia in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the U.S. It also dives into the history of myopia, and what about our current lifestyles is making children more myopic and why the onset of the disease is happening much earlier. ■

The International Myopia Conference Breaks All Records

ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands—After a three-year hiatus, the International Myopia Conference returned with its best attended event since its founding in 1964. Traditionally held every two years, but this time with an extra year in the interim due to COVID, the IMC was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Sept. 4-7, 2022. Hosted by the Erasmus Medical Center and located in the state-of-the-art De Doelen conference center, the 18th International Myopia Conference welcomed 761 attendees from 41 countries, hundreds more than the last event.

This year’s organizing committee was led by president professor Dr. Caroline Klaver of Erasmus University Medical Center and her team of secretary assistant professor Virginie Verhoeven, treasurer orthoptist Jan Roelof Polling, trustee assistant professor Magda Meester-Smoor, trustee physician Willem Tideman, physician Sander Kneepkens, and optometrist Kübra Liman.



The Erasmus Medical Center hosted the 18th International Myopia Conference in the De Doelen conference center in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, welcoming more than 750 attendees from 41 countries.



Continuing its series of white papers on myopia started in 2019 and continued in 2021, the International Myopia Institute previewed the topics and authors planned for 2023.



The winner of the Zeiss Young Investigator Award, Jason C.S. Yam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, presented the Josh Wallman Memorial Lecture, named for one of the founders of the International Myopia Conference.

Record-Breaking Sponsorship

Industry support also broke records, including from **Diamond Sponsors**—CooperVision, EssilorLuxotica, Hoya, Menicon, and Zeiss; **Platinum Sponsors**—Johnson & Johnson Vision and Topcon; **Gold Sponsors**—Oculus, SightGlass Vision, and Tsubo

Lab; **Silver Sponsor**—MedicalWorkshop; and other sponsors—Bayer, Novartis, Oogfonds, Stria.Tech, Vyluma, and Zero Residential. *Review of Myopia Management* was the official media sponsor along

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The International Myopia Conference Receives Strong Industry Support

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with the peer-reviewed journal *Ophthalmic & Physiological Optics* (OPO.) Overall, there were 18 sponsors and eight sponsored sessions.

Three full days on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, and a half day on Wednesday were packed with sessions consisting of back-to-back 10-minute presentations organized around specific topics such as Optical Interventions, Pharmacological Interventions, Imaging & Biometry, Genetics, and much more.

While the variety of topics related to the overall focus on myopia management was wide and varied, a few specific subjects were frequently repeated, indicating their prominence and high interest among the world's myopia management leaders who were gathered for the conference.

Expanding Availability of Spectacle Lenses

For example, the growing prevalence of spectacle lenses available worldwide for slowing the progression of myopia (although none are FDA-approved yet in the U.S.) was reflected not only by the many presentations on the topic but also by a number of sponsors whose products are gradually becoming available worldwide, country by country.

At least three sponsors made specific announcements on the topic of spectacle lenses. Exhibiting for the first time at IMC, SightGlass Vision presented new data and insights related to its Diffusion Optics Technology, including preliminary three-year results from its CYPRESS clinical trial. DOT lenses incorporate thousands of micro-dots that softly scatter light to reduce contrast on the retina.

The science behind this lens as well as the technologies at work in other myopia control spectacle lenses were presented in sponsored sessions during lunch breaks. EssilorLuxottica detailed the highly aspherical lenslets (HAL) technology behind its Stellest lenses with H.A.L.T. technology. The EssilorLuxottica presentation was moderated by Olga Prenat and featured Damian Paillé presenting the lens design, Björn Drobe sharing three-year clinical trial results, and BHVI's Padmaja Sankaridurg on the results from a randomized, double-blind,



The International Myopia Conference concluded with a thank you to the organizing committee and an invitation to the 19th IMC to be held in China in two years.



The International Myopia Conference's organizing committee's secretary professor Virginie Verhoven moderated the Chew Sek-Jin Memorial Lecture, named for one of the IMC founders.



Professor Dr. Caroline Klaver of Erasmus University welcomed International Myopia Conference attendees at an opening reception hosted by Johnson & Johnson Vision, represented by Dr. Noel Brennan.

cross-over clinical trial.

Mark Bullimore discussed the impact of spectacle lenses for myopia control on visual functions. Similarly, Hoya presented long-term data on its MiYOSMART lenses with Defocus Incorporated Multiple Segments (DIMS) technology.

Information about contact lenses for myopia management was also shared. In the case of sponsor CooperVision, the company offered new insights related to the continuing efficacy of its MiSight 1 day contact lenses from its seven-year clinical trial.

At a Johnson & Johnson Vision sponsored session, the company announced innovative design concepts and the latest clinical data behind its new silicone hydrogel daily disposable soft contact lens for myopia control. The lens has received FDA breakthrough device designation and features non-coaxial optics to break the nexus between efficacy and vision.

Another optical intervention covered extensively was orthokeratology, addressing design aspects such as efficacy related to the size of the optic zone and efficacy when combined with 0.01% atropine.

A sponsored session from Oculus started the day on Monday, covering the need to measure axial length in general and specifically doing so using the company's Myopia Master, an all-in-one autorefractor, keratometer and biometer. The Oculus morning session was presented by Dr. Padmaja Sankaridurg, Dr. Jaumé Pauné, and Dr. Hakan Kaymak. The sponsored session then led to a series of related presentations in the event's first session on Imaging & Biometry.

Genetics was another recurring topic, and considering the fact that there are 400 genetic loci for myopia, much research remains to be accomplished in this field.

Even preliminary, and in some cases controversial, techniques, such as red light, blue light, and ultraviolet light for managing myopia were discussed and presented. Also, because time spent outdoors has been shown to delay the onset of myopia, some researchers shared their studies on bringing the outdoors indoors with lighting and interior design.

While far more beyond the scope of this event recap was covered over the course of #IMC2022, look for specific coverage in future editions of *Review of Myopia Management*, particularly in the Research Review and In The Pipeline sections.

Where Will the Next Two IMCs Be Held?

During a Tuesday afternoon business meeting of the International Myopia Institute (the founders and continuing informal organizers of the event), the next two IMC venues were selected. The 19th edition will be held in Hainan Island, China, and the 20th IMC will take place at the University of Houston.

The organization also decided that because of the tremendous growth of the event, which is expected to continue, it would initiate creating a more formal structure for the IMC. Toward that goal, the IMI will reach out to all of this year's registrants to invite everyone to nominate individuals for an executive committee and ultimately create a consti-

Treehouse Eyes Sponsors T.H.E. Summit During Vision Expo West

LAS VEGAS—“This category is about to explode, and you are so lucky to be at the forefront of myopia management,” Dr. Dwight Akerman, chief medical editor of *Review of Myopia Management* told the Treehouse Eyes practitioners gathered for T.H.E. Summit held at Caesars during Vision Expo West in Septmeber. As part of a panel consisting of leaders in the field of myopia management, Dr. Akerman shared his predictions for the category and credited Treehouse Eyes’ optometrists with having “first mover advantage.”

“Myopia management will be a \$5 billion category, and by my estimates, there will be seven new FDA-approved interventions in three to four years, two of which have already received FDA fast track designation,” he said. However, “stay hungry,” he warned, “because you won’t have first mover advantage forever.”

The next panelist, Johnson & Johnson Vision’s Lisa McAlister, started with the why. “You are changing children’s eyes, for today and for the future. What we believe at J&J is every child matters.” She referenced the recent International Myopia Conference in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, as illustrative of the “incredible momentum in the space.” Still, there is much work to be done with 645 million myopic children in the world but only 2.3 million in treatment, according to McAlister.

One way she addresses this need is by sitting on the board of the Global Myopia Awareness Coalition, an organization of companies in the field devoted to raising consumer awareness around myopia management. “We are coming together as an industry. The new treatments are critical, and we



Treehouse Eyes’ Gary Gerber, OD, (c) with Euclid Systems’ Kellie Wesley (l) and Christie Yee.



(L to R) Dwight Akerman, Lisa McAlister, Michael Rowe and Warren Modlin.



Johnson & Johnson Vision’s Mattnew Herzberg (l) and Treehouse Eyes’ Rahul Patani.



Kubota Vision’s Brett O’Connor (l) OD, FAAO and VTI’s Doug Benoit, OD, FAAO.



Warren Modlin, Hoya Vision Care and Layna Mendlinger, global head of marketing at Visioneering Technologies.

are committed to making myopia management the standard of treatment.”

Michael Rowe of Eyenovia followed with a description of a “new way to treat myopia,” the Optejet, which his company is working with Bausch Health to develop. The device, which he later demonstrated for the group, enables patients to deliver a pre-measured low dose of atropine while also monitoring compliance for their doctor. It’s important that treatments “be designed in a way that people can actually use them.” He also predicted that treatments “will be in combination, and you are the front line to determine what that combination would be.”

The final panelist of T.H.E. Summit’s first morning

session, Hoya’s Warren Modlin, agreed with Dr. Akerman that “We are seeing the commercial side of myopia management take off. We are coming into a very commercial and competitive environment.” While “Hoya does have a lens in FDA trials and it is available in Canada and in 22 other countries,” Modlin described the Treehouse Eyes group in attendance as “mentors to the heroes on the journey” of delivering myopia management to patients.

“You are part of a journey and a staged experience. The chains will not be on that journey. They are just selling a product,” Modlin said.

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tution and establish a corporate organization.

Just as the implementation of myopia management is expanding globally, so is the interest in participating in the International Myopia Conference.

International Myopia Conference Attendees and Sponsors Share Event Highlights

To learn more about the most important myopia management topics and where industry leaders see the field evolving in the future, visit [https://](https://mymyopia.com/)

mymyopia.com/ and watch video interviews with attendees and sponsors of the International Myopia Conference.

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