

The BARS

BRITISH
ASSOCIATION
OF
RETINAL
SCREENING

Chronicle



BARS CONFERENCE 2023



**Registration for the BARS
2023 Conference is now
open!**

Bristol
Marriott Hotel
28th - 29th September

[Click here to buy tickets](#)



FEATURING

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ATTENDANCE IN
HOSPITAL EYE
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WELCOME...

to the 5th edition of the BARS Chronicle

By Charlotte Wallis, BARS Co-chair

Photography by Kamran Rajaby

We would like to wish all our Chronicle readers a very happy and healthy new year. It doesn't feel like it was long ago we were all in Newcastle enjoying our first face to face conference for several years. It was fantastic to see so many of you there. BARS council have been busy since then organising Bristol 2023.

With the introduction of the key performance indicator DE4 in the National Diabetic Eye Screening Programme: uptake: repeat non-attenders, tackling inequalities is an important focus. Thinking about how we engage, improve access in areas of deprivation and the language we use with people who have diabetes will be key to meeting this standard and improving care. With this in mind, BARS is excited to announce our Key Note Speaker for Bristol 2023 will be Professor Partha Kar OBE FRCP, National Speciality Advisor, Diabetes for NHS England. As well as being a Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, he has been a key innovator in diabetes care including:



Professor Partha Kar OBE FRCP

- Expanding the use of technology in Type 1 Diabetes and tackling inequalities in access to it based on deprivation and ethnicity.
- Leading on real world data collection on Closed Loops for subsequent NICE review.
- Updating NICE guidelines in non-invasive glucose monitoring access in Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes
- Championing "Language Matters".
- Helped in creating an overview of Diabetes care in Primary Care Networks.
- Being a lead user of social media in diabetes care

He has also been co-creator of:

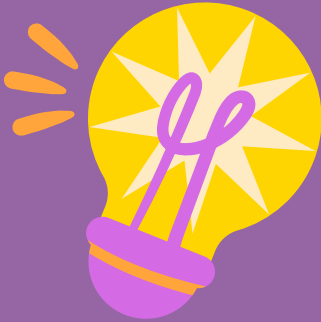
- TAD (Talking about Diabetes) – TED talks for those with Type 1 Diabetes
- Type 1 Diabetes comic
- DEVICES (virtual reality educational modules in diabetes)

We look forward to welcoming him to the BARS conference 2023!

Newcastle 2022

What did you think?

A huge thank you to everyone who completed the BARS feedback, it's given us plenty of food for thought and ways we can improve to make the next one even better!



Based on your feedback we are going to:

- Include more time for questions/discussion following sessions
- Continue to include the patient's perspective – great news for dog lovers coming in the next issue!
- Strict timings on the workshops to ensure equal access for all participants

Here are a few of the lovely comments we received:

Excellent and varied programme

So good to be in one place altogether again for networking!

I thoroughly enjoy it. It was well organised. Well done and thank you!



Very helpful and fantastic

CONGRATULATIONS



ROY TAYLOR MBE

Professor Roy Taylor has been awarded the MBE for services to Diabetic Research in the New Year's Honours list and said "This is truly a Newcastle success. The research has only been possible with the enthusiastic support of a great team of doctors, scientists, nurses, dietitians and administrators. The research participants who gave their time and blood, lay in scanners and changed around their lives to participate in research deserve a share of the honours."

Say Hi!

To our newest members



BARS is run by an elected council of volunteers who are drawn from a range of roles within the field of diabetic eye screening. This year we have 3 new elected members who have joined our team. Join us in welcoming Dominique Zamarian, Brindha Sivayoganathan and Matthew Baines.

Brindha currently works for the South East London DESP. She has worked in Optics for over 14 years and has gained two BSc Honours Degrees. Brindha is passionate about what she does through her various roles in healthcare. These roles included a position at Specsavers along with student placements in hospitals across the UK.



Dominique started her Failsafe journey at South West London DESP and is now currently working as a Failsafe Supervisor for South East London DESP. She has knowledge and experience in Failsafe as well as attaining her health screening and grading diploma alongside her failsafe role. She has worked and implemented processes in other DESP failsafe departments as she feels it is important to have shared learning.



Matthew has recently joined the South Tees programme as a Screener-Grader and has previously worked for a number of years in the Sheffield service, also as a Screener-Grader. He is involved with engagement and outreach work in local communities to promote and encourage uptake of screening as well as being a registered Professional Clinical Advisor with Public Health England and participate in Quality Assurance visits.



Our 3 new members are excited to be a part of the BARS Council and look forward to learning and growing in their new roles

Increasing R3 Attendance in Hospital Eye Services

South East London DESP have done extensive research into the topic of increasing the attendance of R3s in Hospital Eye Services (HES). This was made into a poster and presented at the BARS Conference in 2022. This project is ongoing.

The research that was produced by the end of 2022 showed a number of different reasons why patients did not attend their appointment and what could be done to increase the number of patients attending HES that are graded R3 and referred. It was found that 55% of patients that attended their appointments subsequently rose to 65% just by implementing certain procedures to increase attendance at HES.

When asked in a survey why patients did not attend, the following reasons were given:

- Patients were not aware that they had an appointment
- Some appointments were booked extremely last minute by the Hospital and did not allow sufficient time for postage of appointment letter
- Patients were not aware of how to rebook appointments through HES If they were unable to attend
- Some patients were unaware of the reason why they were referred or felt too anxious to attend.



From this survey we were able to determine a procedure to increase the attendance of R3s in HES.

The method that was established

To ring patients about their upcoming appointment at least 5 days before their scheduled appointment. The failsafe team would send a daily list with the patients' details and appointment dates and times. Having access to various hospital systems has been a huge help in obtaining this information. This allowed the senior screener to address any concerns or questions the patient had, as well as signposting the most up to date HES booking contact details. Anyone that could not be contacted was sent a text message to let them know about their upcoming appointment. This also highlighted those patients whose contact numbers were out of date.



The overall take away message

To have the right patient contact details to be able to contact the patient about their upcoming appointment. Screeners were not able to contact 37% of patients due to not having the right contact details and therefore could not be contacted about their appointment. This is something we are currently working on as it affects other aspects of the patients care. The project has also highlighted the fact that patients that are informed about their appointment and why they must attend has had a positive impacted on the attendance.

Therefore, educating patients about the severity of retinopathy and the effects of this if left untreated may prove to be beneficial.

Patients that rescheduled had been given short notice of appointment dates. This can be avoided by contacting urgent patients in a timely manner and allowing as much time as possible for the patient to arrange things to be able to attend the appointment. This has been implemented in South East London DESP with successful results, with more R3s patients attending their appointments at HES and ultimately reducing the amount of appointment slots being wasted.

The findings to this article have already been sent to other South London DESPS as well as referral hospitals. There will be a 6 monthly review going forward to assess whether these new implementations to the programme have succeeded in improving patients' HES attendance.

Data and outcomes courtesy of South East London DESP

Article written by Dominique Zamarian and Brindhya Sivayoganathan



CONFERENCE REPORT

Shailja Chalishazar

BARS Case Study Bursary Winner



Photography by Kamran Rajaby

It was an honour to win the BARS Case Study and have the opportunity to present at the 20th Annual BARS conference.

I am an Ophthalmology ST1 in the North West and spent my last year as a Teaching Fellow in Ophthalmology at Cardiff Medical School.

During my time in Cardiff, I saw many interesting cases in the Ophthalmology department, one of which particularly fascinated me. A young gentleman had presented with bilateral panuveitis soon after starting a new drug for his haematological cancer. My talk focused on the systematic approach to bilateral panuveitis, a sight threatening condition that tends to create much apprehension amongst clinicians. This was only the second case of panuveitis to be reported in association with this relatively novel drug and helped raise awareness of the adverse effects of this class of targeted cancer drugs. Despite these side effects, the case study demonstrated how to manage the panuveitis without cessation of what many consider to be a life changing drug.

I thoroughly enjoyed presenting at the BARS conference to such a receptive audience and was humbled by the encouraging comments and discussions this case had inspired.

I would like to thank Richard Bell and Charlotte Wallis for selecting me to share my case with a wider audience and hope to be back again to present in the future.

VISION 2020 LINKS Programme and the Diabetic Retinopathy Network (DR-NET)

The VISION 2020 LINKS Programme establishes and oversees capacity-strengthening partnerships between eye departments in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), mostly in Africa, and their counterparts in the UK. Through long-term, whole-team training, eye health professionals are supported in their goal of delivering high quality eye care services for their population.

Networks have been established to address specific training needs that are shared by many different LINK partnerships; these share learning south-south as well as north-south.

The Diabetic Retinopathy Network (DR-NET) was established in 2014. It now has participants from 62 hospitals in 26 LMIC countries. Its activities are aligned with the local and national priorities of the Ministry of Health of each country.

Grading Grand Rounds

The LINKS Programme team runs online live training sessions for graders - Grading Grand Rounds – three times per year, where retinal images are shown and graded anonymously by the participating graders, followed by discussion. After the session in January 2023, 73% of participants said they had learned new things and 38% had clarified and refreshed their knowledge. Everyone said they had found it a useful session.

DR-NET Workshops

DR-NET Virtual Workshops are held twice a year, in June and November. A dedicated website hosts the workshops <https://www.dr-network.org/> and enables sharing of resources. The next Workshop is on 8 June 2023 at 11am BST – please contact marcia.zondervan@lshtm.ac.uk if you would like to join.

The Workshop in November 2022 aligned perfectly with the theme for World Diabetes Day - ‘Education to protect tomorrow’. The DR-NET online Workshop highlighted the need for education for health professionals and the community on DR and the need for regular eye screening for people with diabetes in LMICs.

Increased awareness amongst primary health care workers and people living with diabetes in LMICs is essential, as is improved access to high-quality screening and treatment services. During the Workshop, presentations from Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria highlighted the progress achieved through multidisciplinary collaboration and involvement of all stakeholders to tackle the increasing number of people who are losing their sight unnecessarily due to DR in LMICs.



Some of the participants in the World Diabetes Day online workshop in November 2022

The LINKS Programme team is very grateful to all the screeners, graders and ophthalmologists in the UK who give their time to participate in capacity-strengthening activities with their counterparts in LMICs. DR-NET relies entirely on charitable funding for all its training and capacity-building activities in LMICs. Please contact marcia.zondervan@lshtm.ac.uk if you have ideas for sources of funding for DR-NET and its much-needed work in prevention of blindness due to DR in LMICs.

Cova Bascaran and Marcia Zondervan

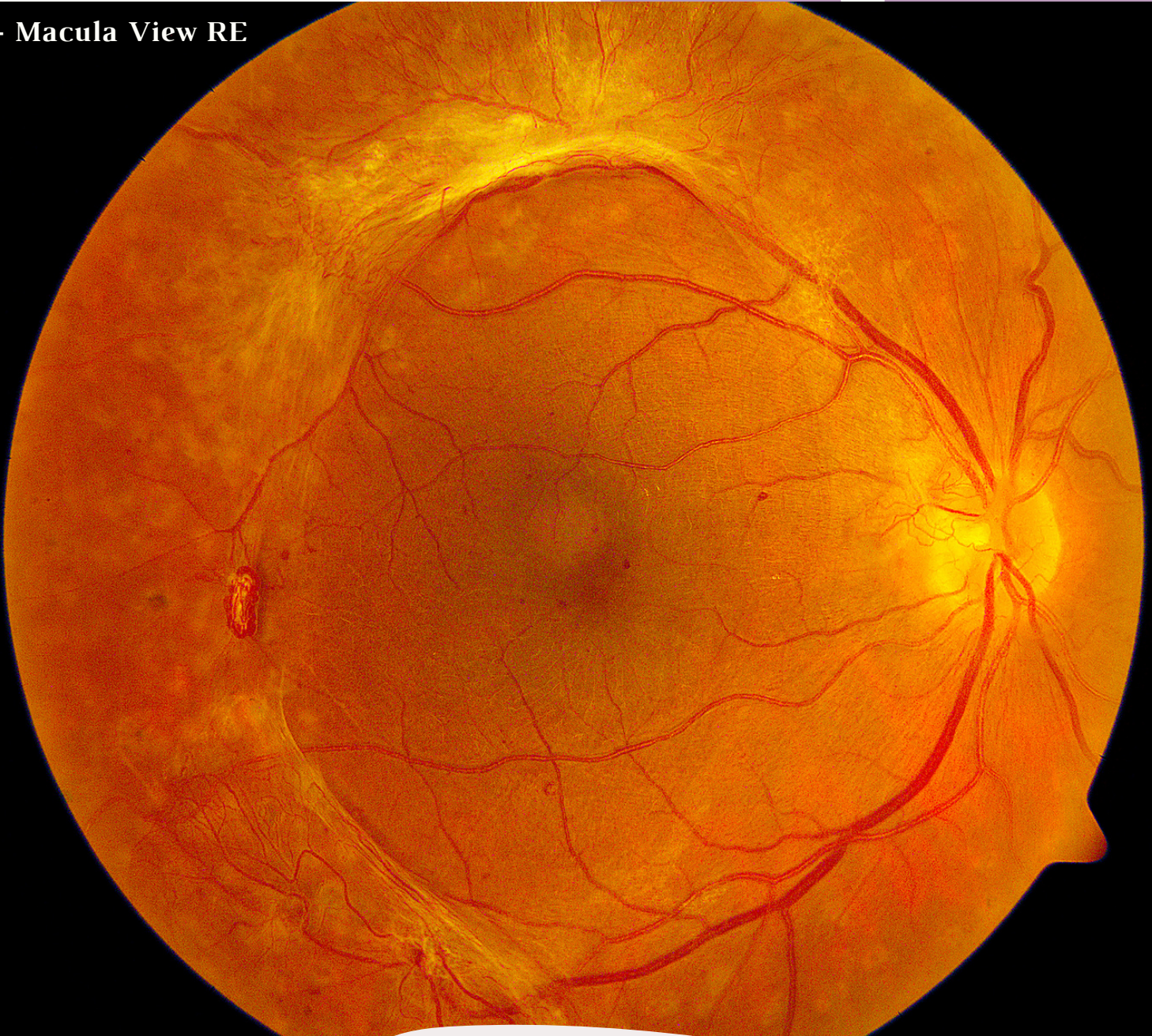
VISION 2020 LINKS Programme, International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

<https://iceh.lshtm.ac.uk/links/>

INTERESTING IMAGES

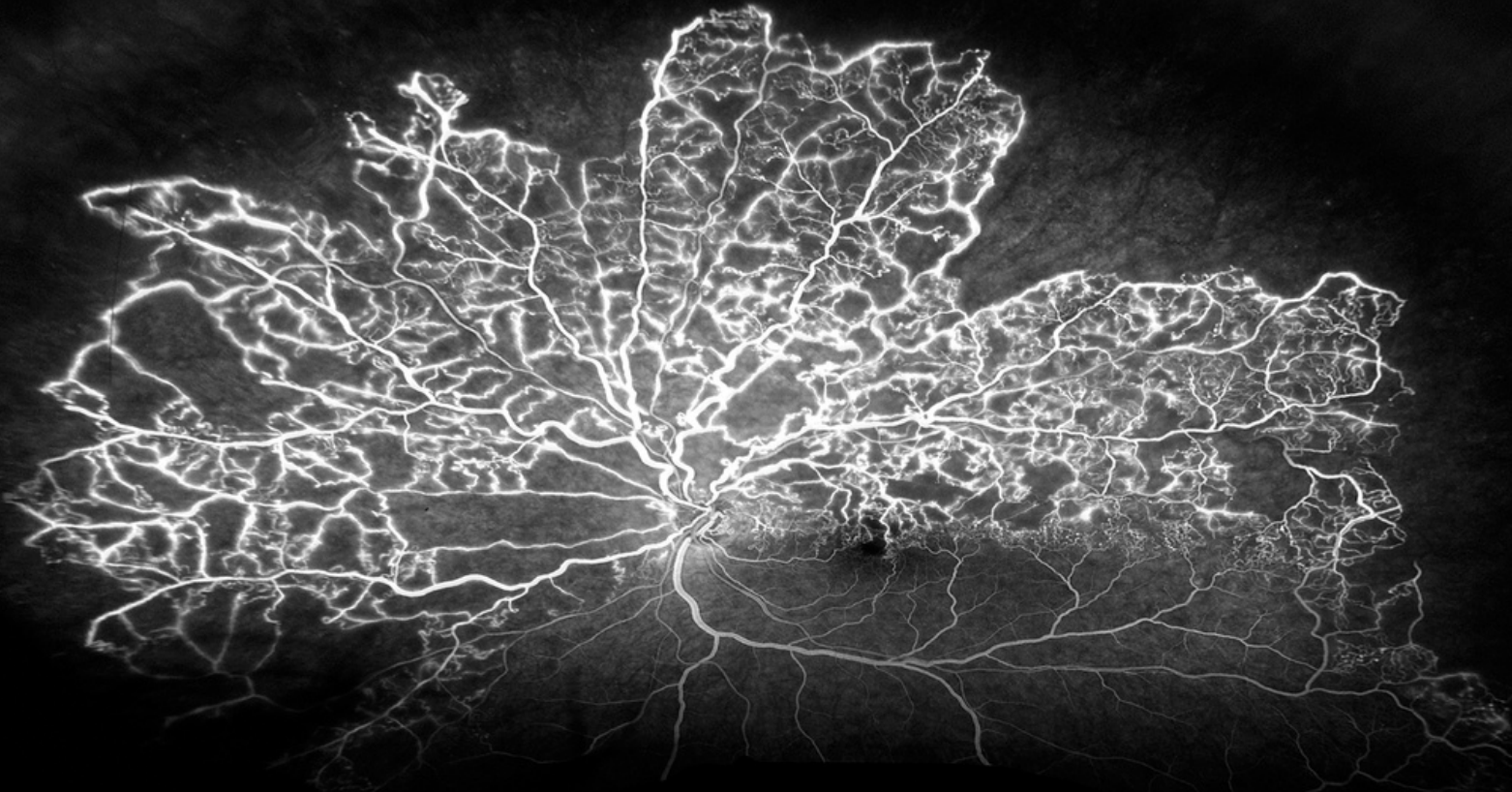
'R3'

R3 - Macula View RE



Winner of the Ophthalmic Imaging Association – Posterior segment category, Richard Bell with 'Retinal colour image of R3'

'Hemi Retinal Vein Occlusion'



Winner of the Ophthalmic Imaging Association – Fundus Fluorescein Angiography category, Richard Bell with 'FFA of a hemi retinal vein occlusion'



If there is a certain subject you'd like us to cover please contact us at:
chair@eyescreening.org.uk



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