

BARS

BRITISH
ASSOCIATION
OF
RETINAL
SCREENING

FRIDAY 19TH
SEPTEMBER

2025

BARS CONFERENCE

Holiday Inn, Birmingham City Centre
Smallbrook Queensway,
Birmingham, B5 4EW

WELCOME!

Welcome to the new look BARS conference 2025. Following feedback from our members and last year's conference delegates we are trialing a 1-day event. We hope the exciting mix of sessions will have something for everyone!

We are excited to bring you a jam-packed programme, including a patient-focused Q&A session with the Together Type 1 leaders. We look forward to learning about cutting-edge research and participating in informative sessions on the new changes introduced to DESPs, from both clinical and program management perspectives. We are also eager to hear from our keynote speaker, Professor Sarita Jacob, who will present on "The Management of Diabetic Retinopathy and Maculopathy in 2025."

We would like to thank all our wonderful trade sponsors for their ongoing support, the magnificent BARS council who spend months behind the scenes making the conference happen and all our attendees for being part of BARS 2025!

Charlotte Wallis and Zoë Tobin
BARS co-chairs



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CONFERENCE 2025

(09:00 - 17:30)

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025

09:00-09:50	Registration	Tea/Coffee/Trade
09:50-10:00	Welcome and Housekeeping	BARS Chairs - Charlotte Wallis and Zoë Tobin
10:00-10:10	Trade Presentation	Mainline Instruments
10:10-10:30	The new grading criteria for R2 L v H, do you know when to refer? The National impact of these grading changes on primary care.	Mrs Samantha Mann, Consultant Ophthalmologist St Thomas' Hospital, London & SELDESP Lead and Professor Tunde Peto, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology Queen's University, Belfast
10:30-11:00	Together Type 1 Panel Discussion	Adam Mayze and Together Type 1 leaders, Diabetes UK
11:00-11:30	Refreshments and Trade	
11:30-11:40	Trade Presentation	SenseMedical / Canon
11:40-11:55	Scanning CONfoCal Ophthalmoscopy for R DIA betic Eye Screening (CONCORDIA)	Professor Peter Scanlon, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Clinical Director, NHS DESP
11:55-12:25	Beyond Diabetic Retinopathy: Spotting the Unusual in Retinal Screening	Yu Jeat Chong, Consultant Ophthalmologist in Medical Retina and Uveitis, Birmingham & Midland Eye Centre
12:25-12:30	Questions	
12:30-13:30	Lunch	

HOLIDAY INN, BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

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13:30-14:20	National Programme Interactive Update	Kate Jordan, Head of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) and Diabetic Eye Screening (DES) Operations, NHSE assisted by Shahj Ahmed, Patrick Rankin and Nicola Hawdon
13:30-14:20	OCT workshop option	Mrs Samantha Mann, Consultant Ophthalmologist St Thomas' Hospital, London & SELDESP Lead and Professor Tunde Peto, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology Queen's University, Belfast
14:20-14:35	Operational and Clinical Implementation of OCT in Diabetic Eye Screening and the Challenges	Ali Askari, North Central London DESP Programme Manager
14:35-14:50	Clinical Implementation of OCT in DESP and Arising Challenges	Dr Susanne Althausen, North Central London DESP, Clinical Lead
14:50-15:00	Questions	
15:00-15:30	Refreshments and Trade	
15:30-15:35	BARS AGM	BARS Chairs Charlotte Wallis and Zoë Tobin
15:35-15:55	Best Practice for Evaluating AI for Screening	Alicja Rudnicka, Professor of Statistical Epidemiology, Population Health Research Institute
15:55-16:25	Keynote Speaker – Management of Diabetic Retinopathy and Maculopathy in 2025	Professor Sarita Jacob, Consultant ophthalmologist, University Hospitals Birmingham
16:25-16:30	Questions	
16:30-17:30	Drinks and Canapés	

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BARS SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Samantha Mann

Samantha Mann has been a Consultant Ophthalmologist at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital since 2009. Over the past sixteen years, Samantha has developed a special interest in Diabetic Eye Screening and is the Clinical Lead for the Southeast London Programme covering 120,000 patients living with diabetes. The Programme covers patients with high levels of ethnic diversity and deprivation and regularly sees advanced levels of pathology, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic. She is constantly striving to improve the quality of the service further and has been actively involved in compiling the London OCT scanning protocol for use within diabetic eye screening surveillance pathways. Additionally, she is a peer reviewer for the National Screening Programme and sits on the London board for Adult Screening for Diabetic Eye. Additionally, she has helped to set up the semi-virtual diabetic clinic at St Thomas' to reduce the backlog of patients waiting to be seen for their diabetes eye check.

She has also published a range of articles on age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and eye screening and helped to produce a video called "Danny's Story" which tells the story of a young male with diabetes blinded through failure to attend his diabetic screening appointments. Furthermore, she has co-organised laser courses for ophthalmic trainees and a workshop teaching specialist midwives on the risks of diabetic retinopathy in pregnancy. She has also presented at several conferences including EURETINA, BARS and EASDEC and the National Diabetic Eye Screening conference.



Professor Tunde Peto



Tunde Peto is Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at Queen's University Belfast and is also the clinical lead for Diabetic Eye Screening Programme in Northern Ireland and the clinical lead for diabetic eye treatment pathway at the Belfast Trust. As a Consultant Ophthalmologist with special interest in Medical Retina and diabetic eye, Prof Peto has over 30 years experience in clinical care and research in diabetic eye disease. She trained in Italy, Hungary and did her PhD in Australia before being recruited by Moorfields Eye Hospital where she worked for 16 years before taking up her current post. She has been working with establishing diabetic eye care in different parts of the Commonwealth and is working with the WHO. Professor Peto has been very involved with diabetic eye screening since 2002 and have served the screening community as President of BARS in the past.

Adam Mayze

Adam Mayze is the Youth Coordinator for Diabetes UK in the Midlands and East of England. He leads the Together Type 1 programme in that region of England and has done so since the programme's inception in September 2022. The Together Type 1 programme is aimed at young people aged between 11-25 living with type 1 diabetes. Together Type 1 is enabled by a £5 million donation from the Steve Morgan Foundation and was developed through feedback that young people living with type 1 diabetes have felt left out and isolated.

As Youth Coordinator, Adam manages one Youth Worker and 58 Young Leaders who live with type 1 diabetes. There are over 500 young people living with type 1 diabetes registered to the Together Type 1 programme in the Midlands and East of England alone. Together Type 1 have delivered a multitude of events for young people, healthcare professionals, school staff and more in the West Midlands, East Midlands and East of England.



Professor Peter Scanlon



Professor Peter Scanlon has been Clinical Lead/Advisor for the English NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme since 2003. He holds appointments as a Consultant Ophthalmologist in the Gloucester Eye Unit, Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, Visiting Professor at the University of Gloucestershire, and honorary Clinical Lecturer in Ophthalmology at the University of Bristol. Professor Scanlon's research interests lie in the screening, epidemiology, assessment and treatment of diabetic retinopathy.

Mr Yu Jeat Chong

Mr Yu Jeat Chong is a Consultant Ophthalmologist in Medical Retina and Uveitis at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre, where he also serves as Digital Lead. Prior to this, he completed his ophthalmology training in the West Midlands Deanery and a Senior Clinical Research Fellowship at the Singapore Eye Research Institute.



Katherine Jordan



Kate has worked within the public and healthcare sector for over 20 years starting in sexual health services in the NHS, before moving to a Local Authority public health commissioning role. In 2016 Kate joined Public Health England where she worked across health protection, screening and immunisation and workforce development portfolios. Most recently Kate has worked in NHS England as Head of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) and Diabetic Eye Screening (DES) Operations, leading the 24-month screening interval and OCT implementation within Diabetic Eye Screening.

Ali Askari

Ali Askari holds a BA (Hons) in Business Management and a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) with a specialisation in "Executive Health Management and Hospital Leadership." He is a Prince 2-certified project manager with over 15 years of programme and project management experience outside the NHS, where he gained strong business acumen and a deep understanding of organisational dynamics. Ali joined the NHS 15 years ago, starting as General Manager for commissioning and design at the hospital. For the past 14 years, he has served as the North Central London (NCL) Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (DESP) Programme Manager, a service delivered by North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, now part of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.

Amongst other operational roles, Ali managed the ophthalmology department and served as "silver command" and "on-call manager" at the Hospital. Ali has been a Screening Professional Clinical Advisor (SPCA) for NHS England and the Screening Quality Assurance Service (SQAS) for nine years, participating in over 14 External Quality Assurance (EQA) visits. Ali is passionate about improving healthcare efficiency and delivering high-quality outcomes.



Susanne Althausen



Susanne Althausen qualified from Medical School in Freiburg, Germany in 1986. After a short period of working in the UK in A&E, Paediatrics and Ob.& Gyn, she returned to Germany for her ophthalmology training at the University Eye Hospital in Freiburg. From 1995 she worked in the Royal Free Hospital, London, since 2009 in a Consultant role, with a special interest in medical retina. In 2012, Susanne became the clinical lead of the North Central London Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (NCL DESP) and after being the clinical Director for Ophthalmology and Divisional Medical Director for Surgery until 2020, she is now dividing her time between clinical work in the Royal Free London and her clinical lead role in NCL DESP.

Professor Alicja Rudnicka

Professor Alicja Rudnicka is a Professor of Statistical Epidemiology in the Population Health Research Institute, School of Health and Medical Sciences, City, St Georges, University of London, and co-founder member of the Artificial Intelligence and Automated Retinal Image Analysis Systems ARIAS Research Group.

Recent work has focused on the use of AI methods for analysing retinal images in relation to (i) creation of retinal microvascular phenotypes for disease risk prediction and (ii) performance equity of AI for the detection of diabetic eye disease from retinal images, for potential deployment within the English NHS National Diabetic Eye Screening Programme. Public, patient and practitioner engagement and involvement has also formed a growing area of research. She works as part of a multi-disciplinary national and international team, which includes AI/computer scientists, clinicians, data scientist, behavioural scientists and epidemiologists from different academic institutions.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Sarita Jacob

Professor Sarita Jacob is a Consultant Ophthalmologist at the University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) with a special interest in ocular ultrasound, diabetic retinopathy and medical education. She has pioneered the ocular ultrasound service at UHB and offers a regional service in the West Midlands. She leads the Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country Diabetic Eye Screening programme, the largest urban diabetic eye screening programme in the UK and Europe as the clinical lead for the programme. She has been heavily involved in the undergraduate medical education in Birmingham and has won several awards for her contribution to teaching and training. Her primary research is focussed on diabetic retinopathy and medical education, reflecting her commitment to advancing patient care and training future health care professionals. She has authored numerous peer reviewed publications offering valuable insights into the management of diabetic eye disease.

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