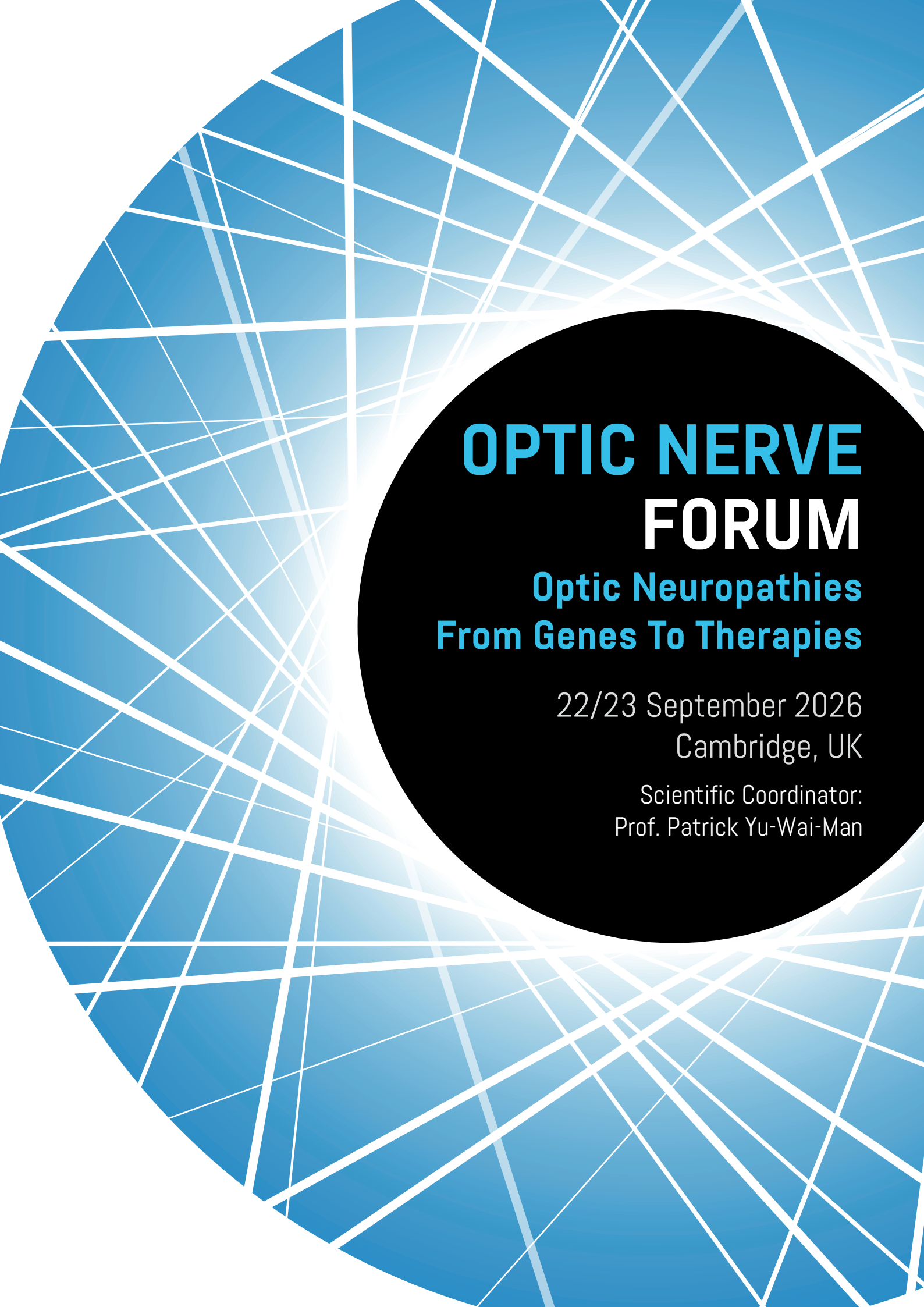




OPTIC NERVE FORUM

**Optic Neuropathies
From Genes To Therapies**

22/23 September 2026
Cambridge, UK

Scientific Coordinator:
Prof. Patrick Yu-Wai-Man

Shaping the Future of Optic Nerve Disease Management

THE VISION

The **Optic Nerve Forum** is an evolving international platform bringing together leading experts in optic nerve disorders through a recurring high-level meeting hosted by major centers of excellence. Its mission is to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration, harmonize clinical and research approaches, and accelerate the translation of scientific advances into meaningful benefits for patients.

THE 2026 EDITION

The 2026 edition represents a first step: While featuring a dedicated focus on **LHON (Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy) as a model disease**, it also covers the broader themes of degeneration and neuroprotection relevant to **glaucoma** and **demyelinating optic neuritis**.

CORE OBJECTIVES & APPROACH

By bringing together top experts in ophthalmology, neuro-ophthalmology and neurology, the scientific programme moves beyond theory, emphasising:

- Advanced decision-making frameworks driven by case-based discussions
- Cross-disease comparison and sharing of best practices across specialities
- In-depth focus on advanced imaging and emerging biomarkers





OPTIC NERVE FORUM

22/23 SEPTEMBER 2026 - CAMBRIDGE, UK

EACCME

The **Optic Nerve Forum**, Cambridge, United Kingdom 22/09/2026 - 23/09/2026, has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 8.5 European CME credits (ECMEC®s). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity

CME

È stata richiesto l'accreditamento ECM (riferimento 492781) per le seguenti figure professionali: Medico Chirurgo: Oftalmologia; Neuroradiologia; Genetica Medica; Neurologia

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR

Patrick Yu-Wai-Man

University of Cambridge and Moorfields Eye Hospital, UK

FACULTY

Piero Barboni

IRCCS Scientific Institute San Raffaele,
Milan, Italy

Jasima Cehajic Kapetanovic

University of Oxford
UK

Thomas Johnson

Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, USA

Christopher Leung

University of Hong Kong,
China

Catherine Vignal-Clermont

National Ophthalmology Hospital
Paris, France

Jeffrey Bennett

Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora,
CO, USA

Ted Garway-Heath

UCL Institute of Ophthalmology
and Moorfields Eye Hospital,
London, UK

Chiara La Morgia

University of Bologna,
Italy

Lingyi Liang

Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre,
Guangzhou, China

Marcela Votruba

Cardiff, UK

Valerio Carelli

University of Bologna,
Italy

Tasneem Khatib

University of Cambridge,
UK

Yaping Joyce Liao

Stanford Byers Eye Institute,
Palo Alto, USA

Michal Minczuk

University of Cambridge
UK

Wu Yuxuan

Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre,
Guangzhou, China



Tuesday 22nd September 2026

08:45 Opening remarks – the vision for the optic nerve forum

Patrick Yu-Wai-Man - Cambridge, UK

LHON: a model for therapeutic development in optic neuropathies

09:00 Idebenone for LHON – real-world evidence and remaining gaps

Chiara La Morgia - Bologna, Italy

09:30 Gene therapy for LHON – what's next?

Catherine Vignal - Paris, France

10:00 Developing consensus pathways for LHON diagnosis and management

Patrick Yu Wai Man - Cambridge, UK

10:30 *Coffee*

Mechanisms of optic nerve injury: mitochondrial, structural and inflammatory pathways

11:00 Mitochondrial optic neuropathies – more than just RGCs

Valerio Carelli - Bologna, Italy

11:30 Structural susceptibility to optic nerve injury

Yaping Joyce Liao - Stanford, CA, USA

12:00 Demyelinating optic nerve disorders – mechanisms and therapies

Jeffrey Bennett - Denver, CO, USA

12:30 *Lunch*

Next-generation diagnostics: imaging, biomarkers and deep learning tools

14:00 OCT and imaging biomarkers in mitochondrial optic neuropathies

Piero Barboni - Milan, Italy

14:30 Imaging the optic nerve – innovations and biomarkers

Christopher Leung - Hong Kong

15:00 Deep learning tools – opportunities and challenges in neuro-ophthalmology: Focus on the retinal vasculature in pregnancy complications

Lingyi Liang and Wu Yuxuan - Guangzhou, China

15:30 *Tea*

PANEL DISCUSSION

16:00 The next decade of optic nerve therapeutics – aligning science, industry and patients

Patrick Yu Wai Man - Cambridge, UK

17:00 **CLOSE**

Wednesday **23rd** September 2026

08:30 Why has optic nerve neuroprotection (largely) failed?

Tasneem Khatib - Cambridge, UK

09:00 Glaucoma progression and mitochondrial dysfunction: relevance to optic nerve neuroprotection

Ted Garway-Heath - London, UK

09:30 Optic nerve regeneration – the current state-of-play

Thomas Johnson - Baltimore, MD, USA

10:00 Coffee

FUTURE HORIZONS

Experimental models, surgical innovation and next-generation therapies

10:30 Is there still a role for animal models in optic neuropathy research?

Marcela Votruba - Cardiff, UK

11:00 Targeted drug delivery to the optic nerve – robotic surgical approaches

Jasmina Kapetanovic - Oxford, UK

11:30 Gene editing for mitochondrial optic neuropathies

Michal Minczuk - Cambridge, UK

12:00 Closing remarks – future directions and next steps

Patrick Yu-Wai-Man - Cambridge, UK

12:15 Lunch

Organising secretariat



Lena Italy Srl
Via Caduti di Marcinelle, 11
20134 Milano, Italy
opticnerveforum@lena.events

CME Provider



Provider ECM #5306:
Eve-Lab Formazione S.R.L.
Viale dei Mille, 137
50131 Firenze

Meeting venue



Emmanuel College
St Andrew's Street, Cambridge
CB2 3AP, UK

www.opticnerveforum.org

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