#### MOHS/CRC/30.13(NS)

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# NED NEWSLETTER

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# Register Today

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## Message from the Editors

NED Newsletter celebrated its third year anniversary with the release of the August 2016 issue. The objective of this newsletter was initially to disseminate info related to NED in segments to facilitate understanding and data usage by personnel at each level of eye care in the country. Later it incorporated news related to Prevention of Blindness concept, strategies and activities.

It was first launched as printed copies, which were sent using couriers to HODs for distribution to members in respective departments. Commencing from April 2016, distribution of printed newsletter was stopped due to cost issues.

On retrospect, this was indeed a good move. Firstly, feedback from the ground showed that many issues of the newsletter have never reached the intended readers for some reasons. Secondly, the costs of printing and courier amounted to thousands of Ringgit that could have been saved on other items or activities related to NED improvement. Thirdly, printed materials have a lower capacity to reach young eye care personnel, being less appealing especially to IT savvy individuals.

Newsletter in PDF softcopies, in contrast, are easier to manage. They can be mass emailed to HODs, individual specialists, medical officers, optometrists and other supporting staff in the department. They can even be made to reach out to staff in the universities and the private sectors.

Besides they are easily retrieved by email in android/ blackberry operating mobiles to be read page by page.

So, let us now enjoy the benefits that technology has to offer. The next time when you receive an email sending you an NED Newsletter issues, please kindly download them and don't forget to share them with your colleagues by forwarding the emails. This can be done at your fingertips. Enjoy

**EDITORs** 

# **Pioneering work with ICHOM**

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) is a non-profit organization founded with the purpose of transforming health care systems worldwide by measuring and reporting patient outcomes in a standardized way.

ICHOM organizes global

teams of physician leaders, outcomes researchers and patient advocates to define Standard Sets of outcomes per medical condition, and then drives adoption to enable health care providers globally to compare, learn, and improve.

Malaysia, through the establishment of the NED is amongst the pioneers in developing standard sets of outcome measures for cataract surgery. We are honoured to be selected for participation in the Globe Cataract Benchmarking pilot project/study.



# **Data Query Function for Biometric Outcome**

NED has developed a new function, which allows users to evaluate the outcome of their surgeries with regard to the difference between achieved and target refraction. This is in particular, important as an audit tool for HODs to assess department's overall performance in cataract surgery.

The calculation is based on target refraction (from A scan) and achieved refraction (by Spherical Equivalent). It would ideally be both SE, but it will result in too many exclusion, as accurate SE preoperatively cannot be obtained in most patients.

Data query will be prompted when the difference between target and achieved refraction is more than +/- 1.0D.

Previously, we only have a function in the downloadable report of CSR where we can generate the number of cataract surgeries with outliers. The outliers can be the results of typos and not poor outcome in reality. Unfortunately we cannot identify the patients, verify or do any correction. With this function it is now possible for users and HODs to have a list of patients with data query.

As verification and correction can be done by data entry correction, data cleaning and audit can be done at departmental level effortlessly. This will minimize error during mass cleaning of database each year prior to data analysis for annual report.



# **Pre School Vision Screening**

### What is Preschool vision screening?

Identifying children with visual impairment or eye conditions at pre-school age is considered as an efficient and costeffective method to prevent vision loss. Optometrists in the Ministry of Health Malaysia have been conducting regular vision screening as part of ophthalmology out-reach activities.

The main aim of vision screening is to identify children who have or are at risk of developing amblyopia, leading to permanent visual impairment unless treated in early childhood. Early detection of amblyogenic factors is important so that a referral can be made to ophthalmologists or optometrists for further evaluation and treatment. These conditions include strabismus. cataracts. glaucoma, ptosis, refractive errors such as myopia, hyperoastigmatism. pia and Other more lifethreatening conditions such as tumors or neurological diseases can be also detected through screening.

### *How is vision screening performed?*

Selection of screening battery is dependent on the child's age. Generally, the tests need to be simple, quick and reliable. Essential tests which are normally used during vision screening to be able to detect strabismus, cataracts, ptosis, refractive errors are:

- 1. Inspection of the eye, pupils and red reflex.
- 2. Corneal reflex test
- 3. Cover test
- 4. Visual acuity test



A child is being tested for visual acuity using matching technique with a modified Snellen chart

### Why preschool vision screening is efficient?

Vision screening should consist of simple and quick methods rather than a comprehensive eye examination. This allows many more children to be

### screened .

Considering that approximately 2 to 4% of children have an eye condition that requires referral, it is not appropriate to perform a comprehensive eye examination on every child during screening. However, a comprehensive eye examination is more reasonable if a child has known risk factors for eye disease, if there is a family history of pediatric eye disease, or if a child has signs or symptoms suspicious for a sight-

threatening vision problem.

Children enjoyed having their eyes checked at their kindergarten



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The National Eye Database (NED) is a service supported by the Ministry of Health (MOH) as an approach to collect health information. It collects data on incidences and distributions, and evaluates risk factors as well as treatment outcome of visually threatening eye diseases such as cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and contact lens related corneal ulcer. In the initial phase, NED will collect data on cataract surgery, status of diabetic retinopathy in new diabetic patients, contact lens related corneal ulcer and glaucoma patients. Besides disease registry, NED also collects monthly service census of MOH Ophthalmology departments. The census serves as an effort to monitor key performance indicators of each ophthalmology department in the MOH. Information collected in the NED is very useful in assisting the MOH, Non-Governmental Organizations, private healthcare providers and industry in program planning and evaluation, leading to eye disease prevention and control.

# 6th Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Meeting

The 6th Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Conference held on the 23-25 September 2016 at Connexion@Nexus was a success. What have made the conference to be more unique in that it was organized in conjunction with the 2nd Ophthalmology-Optometry Conference. The synergistic collaboration in the planning and preparation has resulted a scientific program that presents a unique opportunity for ophthalmologists and optometrists to share experiences with each other as well as within their respective fields.

The plenary sessions were delivered by distinguished international speakers from the United Kingdom, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. The Mohamad Noor Marahakim Lecture was presented by Mr. Richard Bowman, a renowned consultant pediatric neuro-ophthalmologist from The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, London.

The theme of the conference is "Practising Evidence Based Medicine" offered practitioners access to current evidence based research which is important in the management of patients.

The main plenary topics were



The opening ceremony of the 6th Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Meeting by Dr Elias Hussein.

focused on stem cells. Speakers explored current research and possible applications for the regeneration of damaged cells. The Conjoint Conference also highlighted on current developments in ophthalmology and optometry encompassing a wide range of subspecialty topics.

This year, Associate Professor Mimiwati Zahari was the recipient for the Mohamad Noor Marahakim award. Under the auspices of the joint Ophthalmology and Optometry Conference, the very first Optometry Award was conferred to Prof Emeritus Norhani Mohidin in recognition of her contribution to the optometry profession in the country.

Well done to the organizer and committee! We are looking forward for the 7th Conjoint Ophthalmology Scientific Conference.