Invited Speaker

Prof. John G. Flanagan
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Biography

John Flanagan is a Professor at both the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo, and the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, University of Toronto. He is Director of the Glaucoma Research Unit, Toronto Western Research Institute, and a Senior Scientist at the Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network. He graduated in Optometry and Vision Sciences from Aston University, Birmingham, United Kingdom in 1980, where he later earned his PhD in 1985.

Prof. Flanagan currently holds 3 research grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and has supervised 26 graduate students. He has authored over 120 peer reviewed publications, 10 book chapters, 3 books, and a CDRom on "Automated Perimetry," and has given numerous invited lectures to both professional and academic audiences around the world. His awards include Claire Bobier Lecturer, University of Waterloo; Certificate of Merit for Research Excellence, Glaucoma Research Society of Canada; Springer Lecturer, University of Alabama; and the 2004 Glenn A. Fry Award from the American Optometric Foundation. The latter is given to a "distinguished scientist or clinician for his or her current research contributions." Prof. Flanagan was a plenary lecturer at the 2003 American Academy of Optometry (AAO) meeting, and in July 2005 was appointed to the faculty of the inaugural World Glaucoma Congress. He was a founding member of the Optometric Glaucoma Society, was Program Chair from 2002 to 2007, and is currently OGS's President. He is chair of the AAO Admittance Committee (Region 6, scientists) and a member of the Ocular Disease Section's glaucoma diplomate committee. In 2007 he was a recipient of an Outstanding Performance Award from the University of Waterloo. In 2008 he was appointed Chair of the Human Clinical Research Ethics Committee at the University of Waterloo.

The structure-function relationship in glaucoma: old ideas, new opportunities

Abstract

The clinical relevance of both structural change and the functional deficits associated with the development of glaucoma has been debated for many years. However, both are considered essential for the early diagnosis and subsequent management of the disease. Visual function is most commonly assessed using standard automated perimetry. New techniques for the evaluation of visual function specific perimetry will be outlined. Three-dimensional imaging of the optic nerve and nerve fiber layer is now also a standard of practice in the detection and management of the glaucomas. New high-resolution techniques for the evaluation of structural change will be presented. There will be particular emphasis on the analysis of progression, and combined structure-function mapping. The scientific principles, clinical application and relevance of these techniques will be presented with particular respect to present-day optometric practice.