

for managing congenital cataract, trauma, and complicated cataract surgery. Because the capital cost of lasers and vitrectomy machines is so high, they should only be used in centres that have sufficient volume of patients to justify the expense.

Training in Retinal Disease

To summarise, retinal disease is likely to become more common in the developing world. Treatment of retinal conditions is improving, and may be cost effective, even in a developing world eye clinic. Owing to advances in technology, equipment to treat retinal disease, although still expensive, is now much more suitable for use in a developing country. However, a significant limitation remains the shortage of skilled personnel. Ophthalmic education should prepare eye workers not only for the challenges they will face today, but also for future developments. This means that we need more developing world ophthalmologists with sub-speciality training in retinal disease who can train future generations of eye workers.

Questions:

1. Is your training programme orientated towards diseases that are becoming less

common, or is it aimed at preparing eye workers to manage the conditions that are going to be most important over the next twenty years?

2. Is retinal disease an increasing problem in your country – and if so, how is your training programme planning to address this challenge?

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EXAMINATIONS CALENDAR 2003/2004 (UK and OVERSEAS)

UK Examination Dates

Examination	Applications and Fees Due	Essay and/or MCQ Papers	Clinicals/Orals/OSES ⁺ /OSCES ⁺
Part 1 MRCOphth	1 September 2003	13–14 October 2003	None
	9 December 2003	19–20 January 2004	None
	15 March 2004	26–27 April 2004	None
	31 August 2004	11–12 October 2004	None
Part 2 MRCOphth	22 September 2003	3 November 2003	3–7 November 2003
	4 May 2004	14 June 2004	14–18 June 2004
	20 September 2004	1 November 2004	1–5 November 2004
Part 3 MRCOphth*	4 August 2003	15 September 2003	15–19 September 2003
	19 January 2004	1 March 2004	1–5 March 2004
	2 August 2004	13 September 2004	13–17 September 2004
This examination has changed for September 2003: please contact the Examinations Department for further details			
Diploma in Ophthalmology (DRCOphth)	6 October 2003	17 November 2003	17–19 November 2003
	17 May 2004	28 June 2004	28–30 June 2004
	4 October 2004	15 November 2004	15–17 November 2004

From November 2001, there has been no practical refraction section in the Diploma Examination

India Examination Dates: Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, South India

Provided a minimum of six candidates are booked to sit, the Parts 1, 2 and 3 Membership Examinations are scheduled to be held on the following dates

Part 1 MRCOphth	1 September 2003	13–14 October 2003	None
Part 2 MRCOphth	1 September 2003	15 October 2003	15–16 October 2003
Part 3 MRCOphth	1 September 2003	16 October 2003	16–17 October 2003
Part 1 MRCOphth	15 March 2004	26–27 April 2004	None
Part 1 MRCOphth	31 August 2004	11–12 October 2004	None
Part 2 MRCOphth	31 August 2004	13 October 2004	13–14 October 2004
Part 3 MRCOphth	31 August 2004	14 October 2004	14–15 October 2004

* Any changes in any of the above dates will be posted on the website and within application packs + Objective Structured Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination

Applications packs can be obtained from: Examinations Department at the above address

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