Tele-Ophthalmology & Artificial Intelligence Conference

Draws Big International Crowd

*Inaugural event, sponsored by Columbia University, explored ways to leverage these technologies to prevent blindness*

New York, NY (May 7, 2018) -- More than 250 ophthalmologists, residents, fellows, optometrists, industry members, and interested individuals gathered at the first annual Tele-Ophthalmology & Artificial Intelligence Conference, held on Friday, April 6th at Philanthropy New York. The daylong event offered opportunities to discuss trends and research on leveraging telemedicine and artificial intelligence to prevent blindness.

Three levels of event sponsorship were occupied by Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Topcon, and Zeiss at the Gold level; Orbis International at Silver; and Optos and Save Vision Foundation at Bronze.

Four keynote speakers shared views and findings from research, industry, and regulatory affairs in a dynamic event that included panel discussions and Q & A sessions. The speakers were Michael Chiang, MD, MA, Knowles Professor of Ophthalmology & Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology and Vice-Chair of Research in the ophthalmology department at Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health and Science University; Kim Ramasamy, MBBS, DO, DNB, MD, Chief Consultant of Vitreo- Retina Services, Aravind Eye Hospital and Postgraduate Institute of
Ophthalmology; **Michael Abramoff, MD, PhD**, professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences in the departments of biomedical engineering and electrical and computer engineering, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics and the Iowa City VA Health Care System; and, **Malvina Edyelman, MD**, Director, Division of Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose and Throat Devices, U. S. Food and Drug Administration.

The conference served as a platform for education, exchange of experiences, and networking in the emerging field of tele-ophthalmology for ophthalmologists, clinicians in other medical fields, and people in industry working on telemedicine and information technology.

The discussion touched upon cutting-edge topics in tele-ophthalmology, artificial intelligence, and the use of technology to improve access to care and health care outcomes. The conference was aimed at:

- Exploring the need and potential role of tele-ophthalmology in blindness prevention and population management
- Comparing early experiences with tele-ophthalmology, both nationally and internationally
- Describing current and emerging technologies in tele-ophthalmology
- Characterizing artificial intelligence in medicine and ophthalmology
- Elucidating future modalities in eye care
- Providing information on current legislation and reimbursement with the goal of recommending changes

The brainchild of Lama Al-Aswad, MD, MPH, the conference was co-chaired by Dr. Al-Aswad and Louis Pizzarello, MD, MPH, and was hosted by Columbia University Irving Medical Center’s Department of Ophthalmology. Full conference details including Continuing Medical Education information ([Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons](https://www.vageloscollegeofphysiciansandsurgeons.columbia.edu/)) designates this live activity for a maximum of **7.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**), conference abstracts, presenter bios, and select recordings of livestreamed transcripts are available at [www.columbiaeye.org/teleophthalmology2018](http://www.columbiaeye.org/teleophthalmology2018) and on twitter #ColumbiaTeleOph2018.
Dr. Lama A. Al-Aswad is associate professor of ophthalmology at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; Director, Tele-Ophthalmology Initiative; Director, Glaucoma Fellowship, and Chair of Quality Assurance at Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Dr. Louis Pizzarello is clinical professor of ophthalmology and health management, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The Department of Ophthalmology at Columbia University Medical Center, Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute, offers one of the world’s most advanced programs for ophthalmic care, teaching and research. Since its founding in 1933, the Department has maintained its position as a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders causing visual loss and blindness.

Department faculty members helped define the first therapies for retinoblastoma, pioneered laser therapies with the first treatments in 1961, led the study of the genetics of retinal dystrophies and degenerations, developed the first prostaglandin analogue for the treatment of glaucoma, and introduced the use of perfluorocarbons in retinal surgery.

With sub-specialties ranging from Comprehensive Ophthalmology; Cornea & Cataract Disorders; Eye Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery; Glaucoma & Cataract; Neuro-Ophthalmology; Optometry; Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus; Refractive Surgery & Laser Vision Correction; Retina, Vitreous & Macular Disorders; and Specialized Imaging and Diagnostic approaches, the department’s proud tradition of innovative science with a focus on patient care continues to this day.

Search Terms: Telemedicine; Tele-ophthalmology; Artificial Intelligence; Ophthalmology; Optometry; Blindness Prevention; Lama Al-Aswad, MD, MPH; Louis Pizzarello, MD, MPH; CME; Columbia University Irving Medical Center; and Department of Ophthalmology.